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Agenda item 74 (b)

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

Report of the Third Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2021, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Committee considered proposals and took action on the sub-item at its 7th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, 15th and 16th meetings, on 5, 9, 12, 15 and 18 November. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the sub-item 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, on 30 September and on 1, 4 and 7 October.²

3. The Committee, pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, held on 30 September, and taking into account the prevailing conditions relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on the working arrangements for its seventy-sixth 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 74 (a), entitled

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols [A/76/462](#), [A/76/462/Add.1](#), [A/76/462/Add.2](#), [A/76/462/Add.3](#) and [A/76/462/Add.4](#).

¹ [A/C.3/76/SR.7](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.8](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.9](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.11](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.12](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.15](#) and [A/C.3/76/SR.16](#).

² See [A/C.3/76/SR.1](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.2](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.3](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.4](#), [A/C.3/76/SR.5](#) and [A/C.3/76/SR.6](#). Pursuant to the organization of work adopted at the 1st meeting, on 30 September, official statements received by the Secretariat for posting on eStatements can be accessed at the following link: <https://journal.un.org/>.



“Implementation of human rights instruments”, sub-item 74 (c), entitled “Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives”, and sub-item 74 (d), entitled “Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”. The proceedings of the virtual informal meetings are reflected in the annex to document [A/76/462](#).

4. Also pursuant to the organization of work adopted at its 1st meeting, and in lieu of the holding of in-person general discussions of agenda items allocated to the Third Committee, official statements received by the Secretariat under the item can be accessed through the Third Committee Place of the e-deleGATE portal.

5. For the documents before the Committee under this sub-item, see document [A/76/462](#).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.35](#)

6. At its 7th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region” ([A/C.3/76/L.35](#)), submitted by Qatar. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, the Gambia, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. At the same meeting, the representative of Qatar made a statement.

8. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.35](#) by a recorded vote of 176 to 1, with 1 abstention (see para. 114, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:³

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru,

³ The delegations of Angola, Benin, Burundi, Chad, Dominica, Guinea-Bissau, South Sudan and Uganda subsequently indicated that, had they been present, they would have voted in favour.

Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining:

Iran (Islamic Republic of).

9. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Qatar and a statement in explanation of vote was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.36](#)

10. At its 7th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Freedom of religion or belief” ([A/C.3/76/L.36](#)), submitted by Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Israel, Japan, Kiribati, Lebanon, the Marshall Islands, Monaco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of Slovenia, on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, made a statement.

12. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.36](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.48](#)

13. At its 7th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief” ([A/C.3/76/L.48](#)), submitted by Egypt (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation). Subsequently, Australia, Canada, Cuba, Eritrea, Japan, Peru, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

14. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, made a statement.
15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.48](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution III).
16. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

D. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.34](#)

17. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance” ([A/C.3/76/L.34](#)), submitted by Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechia, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, the Gambia, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Togo, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
18. At the same meeting, the representative of Argentina made a statement.
19. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.34](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution IV).
20. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

E. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.37](#)

21. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights” ([A/C.3/76/L.37](#)), submitted by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) and the Russian Federation. Subsequently, China, El Salvador and Uruguay joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.
22. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, made a statement.
23. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.37](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution V).
24. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

F. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.38](#)

25. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the

membership of the human rights treaty bodies” (A/C.3/76/L.38), submitted by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) and the Russian Federation. Subsequently, China and Kiribati joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

26. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, made a statement.

27. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/76/L.38 by a recorded vote of 126 to 52 (see para. 114, draft resolution VI). The voting was as follows:⁴

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

28. Before the vote, the representatives of the United States of America and Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine) made statements.

⁴ The delegation of Ghana subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

29. After the vote, the representative of Brazil made a statement in explanation of vote.

G. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.39](#)

30. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Human rights and unilateral coercive measures” ([A/C.3/76/L.39](#)), submitted by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) and the Russian Federation. Subsequently, China joined as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

31. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that Colombia and Guatemala had withdrawn their sponsorship of the draft resolution.

32. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, made a statement.

33. Also at the 8th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.39](#) by a recorded vote of 124 to 54 (see para. 114, draft resolution VII). The voting was as follows:⁵

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

⁵ The delegation of Ghana subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

Abstaining:

None.

34. Before the vote, the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, composed of Algeria, Angola, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe and the State of Palestine) made a statement, and the representatives of the United States of America and Armenia made statements in explanation of vote.

35. After the vote, the representatives of Chile and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements.

H. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.40](#)

36. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Human rights and cultural diversity" ([A/C.3/76/L.40](#)), submitted by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries). Subsequently, China and Kiribati joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

37. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, made a statement.

38. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.40](#) by a recorded vote of 126 to 55 (see para. 114, draft resolution VIII). The voting was as follows:⁶

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

⁶ The delegation of Ghana subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Nauru, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

39. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

I. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.41](#)

40. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “The right to development” ([A/C.3/76/L.41](#)), submitted by Cuba (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries). Subsequently, China, Kiribati and Solomon Islands joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

41. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee announced that Chile and Colombia had withdrawn their sponsorship of the draft resolution.

42. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, made a statement.

43. Also at the 8th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.41](#) by a recorded vote of 127 to 25, with 28 abstentions (see para. 114, draft resolution IX). The voting was as follows:⁷

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago,

⁷ The delegation of Ghana subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour. The delegation of Australia subsequently indicated that it had intended to abstain.

Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Uruguay.

44. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

45. After the vote, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, New Zealand (also on behalf of Switzerland), Mexico, Australia (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Canada made statements in explanation of vote.

J. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.43](#)

46. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “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/C.3/76/L.43](#)), submitted by the Central African Republic, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cameroon, China, the Comoros, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

47. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

48. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.43](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution X).

K. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.44](#)

49. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order” ([A/C.3/76/L.44](#)), submitted by the Central African Republic, Cuba, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, the Comoros, the Congo,

Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Nigeria, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, Uganda, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

50. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

51. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.44](#) by a recorded vote of 117 to 54, with 9 abstentions (see para. 114, draft resolution XI). The voting was as follows:⁸

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Liberia, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay.

52. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

L. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.47](#)

53. At its 8th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "The right to food" ([A/C.3/76/L.47](#)), submitted by Antigua and

⁸ The delegation of Ghana subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

Barbuda, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Equatorial Guinea, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Nicaragua, Portugal, Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Austria, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, the Comoros, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, the Netherlands, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

54. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement.

55. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.47](#) by a recorded vote of 180 to 2 (see para. 114, draft resolution XII). The voting was as follows:⁹

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom

⁹ The delegation of Ghana subsequently indicated that, had it been present, it would have voted in favour.

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

56. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

57. Also at the 8th meeting, the representatives of Azerbaijan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Armenia made statements in exercise of the right of reply.

M. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.26/Rev.1](#)

58. At its 9th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons" ([A/C.3/76/L.26/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Albania, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Maldives, Malta, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Uruguay and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

59. At the same meeting, the representative of Norway made a statement.

60. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.26/Rev.1](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XIII).

61. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the Philippines and the observer for the Holy See made statements.

N. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.33/Rev.1](#)

62. At its 9th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" ([A/C.3/76/L.33/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Armenia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Monaco, Montenegro, Paraguay, Poland, San Marino, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Albania, Argentina, Australia, Chile, Croatia, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, the

Netherlands, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Sweden and Uruguay joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

63. At the same meeting, the representative of Austria made a statement.

64. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.33/Rev.1](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XIV).

65. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Egypt, Malaysia and Iraq made statements.

O. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.50](#)

66. At its 9th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Terrorism and human rights” ([A/C.3/76/L.50](#)), submitted by Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt and Mexico. Subsequently, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Morocco, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

67. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement.

68. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.50](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XV).

69. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the United States of America and Switzerland (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand and Norway) made statements.

P. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.54](#)

70. At its 9th meeting, on 12 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “National human rights institutions” ([A/C.3/76/L.54](#)), submitted by Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United States of America and Uruguay joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

71. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany made a statement.

72. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.54](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XVI).

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

74. Also at the 9th meeting, the representative of Serbia made a statement.

Q. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.32](#)

75. At its 11th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa” ([A/C.3/76/L.32](#)), submitted by Cameroon (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States) and Nigeria. Subsequently, Algeria, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, China, the Comoros, Costa Rica, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Hungary, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Malta, Morocco, Namibia, the Niger, Pakistan, Qatar, Romania, Tunisia, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

76. At the same meeting, the representative of Cameroon (on behalf of the Economic Community of Central African States) made a statement.

77. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.32](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XVII).

R. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.52/Rev.1](#)

78. At its 12th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Protection of migrants” ([A/C.3/76/L.52/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), the Central African Republic, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, Portugal and Spain. Subsequently, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Canada, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Indonesia, Ireland, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Sao Tome and Principe, Sweden, Tajikistan, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

79. At the same meeting, the representative of Mexico made a statement.

80. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.52/Rev.1](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XVIII).

81. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), El Salvador (also on behalf of Argentina, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay and the Philippines), Libya, Chile, Algeria, Hungary, the Russian Federation, Eritrea and the United States of America and the observer for the Holy See made statements.

S. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.7/Rev.1](#)

82. At its 12th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Countering disinformation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms” ([A/C.3/76/L.7/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, Eritrea, Pakistan and the Russian Federation.

Subsequently, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, the Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uganda and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

83. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed of the programme budget implications of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.7/Rev.1](#), contained in document [A/C.3/76/L.66](#).

84. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan made a statement.

85. Also at the 12th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.7/Rev.1](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XIX).

86. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine), the Russian Federation, Japan, Mexico, Canada, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Australia (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland), Eritrea and Israel and the observer for the Holy See made statements.

87. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Belarus made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

T. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.49/Rev.1](#)

88. At its 15th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity” ([A/C.3/76/L.49/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Colombia, the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Israel, Jordan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, the Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Peru, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Zambia joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

89. At the same meeting, the representative of Greece made a statement.

90. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.49/Rev.1](#) (see para. 114, draft resolution XX).

91. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation made statements.

U. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.51/Rev.1](#)

92. At its 15th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Implementing the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms through providing a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and ensuring their protection, including in the context of and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” ([A/C.3/76/L.51/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Iceland, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Mongolia, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tunisia and Ukraine.

93. At the same meeting, the representative of Norway made a statement and orally revised the fourth, eleventh, nineteenth and twenty-second preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 12 and 28 of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.51/Rev.1](#).¹⁰

94. Subsequently, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Myanmar, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Palau, Panama, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu joined as sponsors of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

95. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.51/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 114, draft resolution XXI).

96. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia), New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland), the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Viet Nam, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Plurinational State of Bolivia and Algeria made statements.

V. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.55/Rev.1](#)

97. At its 16th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic” ([A/C.3/76/L.55/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Azerbaijan (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries).

98. At the same meeting, the representative of Azerbaijan (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries) made a statement and orally revised draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.55/Rev.1](#) to delete the eleventh preambular paragraph and to insert new tenth and eleventh preambular paragraphs, and orally revised the

¹⁰ See [A/C.3/76/SR.15](#).

thirty-sixth and thirty-eighth preambular paragraphs and operative paragraphs 3, 4 and 15 of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.55/Rev.1](#).¹¹

99. Subsequently, Brazil, Costa Rica, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Serbia, Tajikistan and Turkey joined as sponsors of the draft resolution, as orally revised.

100. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.55/Rev.1](#), as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 171 to 0, with 7 abstentions (see para. 114, draft resolution XXII). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Armenia, Australia, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

101. Before the vote, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote.

102. After the vote, the representatives of Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Iceland, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia), Japan, Armenia, the Russian Federation, New Zealand, Mexico, Switzerland, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary and China made statements in explanation of vote, and the representatives of Tunisia and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the observer for the Holy See made statements.

¹¹ See [A/C.3/76/SR.15](#).

W. Draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#)

103. At its 16th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections” ([A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Paraguay, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu. Subsequently, Antigua and Barbuda, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chad, El Salvador, India, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Morocco, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Turkey joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

104. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

105. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Nigeria (also on behalf of Algeria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Pakistan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen) made a statement and proposed oral amendments to the ninth preambular paragraph and operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#).¹²

106. Also at the 16th meeting, the representative of the United States of America orally revised the twenty-seventh preambular paragraph of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#).¹³

Action on the oral amendments

107. At its 16th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee rejected the oral amendment to the ninth preambular paragraph of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 89 to 56, with 12 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

¹² See [A/C.3/76/SR.16](#).

¹³ See [A/C.3/76/SR.16](#).

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Angola, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sri Lanka, Togo.

108. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the oral amendment to operative paragraph 7 of draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 90 to 58, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Comoros, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kiribati, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Angola, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Chad, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Togo, Tunisia.

109. Before the votes on the oral amendments, the representatives of Egypt, Libya, Algeria, the Syrian Arab Republic, Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran made statements and the representatives of Argentina (also on behalf of Chile, Colombia,

Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay), Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States, as well as Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova and Serbia), Israel, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan, Albania, the United States of America, Australia (also on behalf of Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland) and Liberia made statements in explanation of vote.

110. After the votes on the oral amendments, the representatives of Jordan and Tunisia made statements in explanation of vote.

Action on draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#) as a whole

111. At its 16th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/76/L.45/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 114, draft resolution XXIII).

112. After the adoption of the draft resolution, as orally revised, the representatives of the Russian Federation, Nigeria, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Netherlands, Libya, Bahrain (on behalf of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Pakistan, Egypt, Singapore, Hungary, China, Yemen, Malaysia, Algeria, Slovenia (on behalf of the European Union and its member States), Mali, Guatemala, the Sudan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Iraq, Bangladesh, Somalia and Cameroon made statements.

113. At the same meeting, the representative of Nigeria made a statement in exercise of the right of reply.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

114. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,² which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also its resolutions [32/127](#) of 16 December 1977 and [51/102](#) of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling further its resolutions [60/153](#) of 16 December 2005, [67/162](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/241](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/171](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/171](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/166](#) of 19 December 2017 and [74/163](#) of 18 December 2019 on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993³ and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Recognizing that the Centre has made noticeable progress in the promotion of human rights and advocacy in the region and will continue to strengthen its effectiveness and efficiency in responding to ongoing and emerging needs and will enhance its capacity-building and technical assistance, in particular in countries in conflict and post-conflict countries,

Recognizing also that the work of the Centre remains relevant to the needs of the region, which is demonstrated by the fact that it has been consistently solicited by numerous and diverse partners to provide support and to engage in cooperation,

Mindful of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda ([E/1993/23](#), [E/1993/23/Corr.2](#), [E/1993/23/Corr.4](#) and [E/1993/23/Corr.5](#)), chap. II, sect. A.

Recognizing the unprecedented effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including the severe disruption to societies and economies, as well as to global travel and commerce, and the devastating impact on the livelihood of people,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;⁴
2. *Notes with appreciation* the successful assistance that the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes and training programmes on human rights and media and human rights education, as well as support to national human rights institutions on several human rights topics, and notes that the Centre also provided capacity-building activities in the areas of new media and digital technology, the countering of hate speech and incitement to discrimination, combating gender discrimination and the prevention of violent extremism;
3. *Also notes with appreciation* the Centre's adaptation of its methodology to the challenges linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which enabled it to continue to implement its annual workplan, through the organization of a large number of online activities and by bringing together participants from the majority of countries covered by its mandate;
4. *Welcomes* the Centre's efforts to reinforce the documentation component of its mandate, notably the production and dissemination of human rights resource materials in Arabic and other languages;
5. *Also welcomes* the Centre's plan, for the coming two years, to strengthen its efforts to accommodate the needs of the 25 States under its coverage by developing the human rights education programme, with more emphasis on the youth sector, in line with the fourth phase (2020–2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and to further develop its training programmes for State institutions, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, and notes its call for additional voluntary resources in order to be able to do so;
6. *Further welcomes* the work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance the Centre's ability to carry out its mandate and respond to the growing needs from the region by further developing it into a centre for excellence in the area of human rights training, education and documentation for all relevant stakeholders in the region;
7. *Underlines* the Centre's role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in Arabic and other languages;
8. *Notes* that the increasing demand that has been placed on the Centre by Member States and other stakeholders reveals a growing recognition of its role in and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region;
9. *Encourages* the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work and to avoid duplication;
10. *Encourages* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to support the Centre in carrying out its mandate;
11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report, in accordance with existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁴ A/76/295.

Draft resolution II

Freedom of religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Recalling article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹ article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and other relevant human rights provisions,

Recalling also its resolution [36/55](#) of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling further its previous resolutions on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, including its resolution [75/188](#) of 16 December 2020 and Human Rights Council resolution [46/6](#) of 23 March 2021,³

Recognizing the important work carried out by the Human Rights Committee in providing guidance with respect to the scope of freedom of religion or belief,

Noting the conclusions and recommendations of the expert workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and contained in the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, adopted in Rabat on 5 October 2012,⁴

Considering that religion or belief, for those who profess either, is one of the fundamental elements in their conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief, as a universal human right, should be fully respected and guaranteed,

Seriously concerned by continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals, including against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities around the world, and by the increasing number and intensity of such incidents, which are often of a criminal nature and may have international characteristics,

Deeply concerned by the limited progress that has been made in the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and believing that further intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as noted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, as well as at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

¹ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

² Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/76/53](#)), chap. V, sect. A.

⁴ [A/HRC/22/17/Add.4](#), appendix.

Concerned that State and non-State actors sometimes tolerate or encourage acts of violence, or credible threats of violence, against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities,

Concerned also by the increasing number of laws and regulations that limit the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and by the implementation of existing laws in a discriminatory manner,

Convinced of the need to urgently address the rapid rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the human rights of individuals, in particular persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities, the situations of violence and discrimination that affect many individuals, particularly women and children, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief or in accordance with cultural and traditional practices, and the misuse of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in other relevant instruments of the United Nations,

Seriously concerned about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments, and including also those carried out in connection with incitement to national, racial or religious hatred,

Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining the importance of education, including human rights education, in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining also the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Stresses* that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or not to have, or to adopt, a religion or belief of one's own choice and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, including the right to change one's religion or belief;

2. *Emphasizes* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief applies equally to all persons, regardless of their religion or belief and without any discrimination as to their equal protection by the law;

3. *Strongly condemns* violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, as well as all forms of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief;

4. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, antisemitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs;

5. *Reaffirms* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion or belief, as this may have adverse consequences for the enjoyment of the

right to freedom of religion or belief of all members of the religious communities concerned;

6. *Strongly condemns* continuing violence and acts of terrorism targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities, on the basis of or in the name of religion or belief, and underlines the importance of a comprehensive and inclusive community-based preventive approach, involving a wide set of actors, including civil society and religious communities;

7. *Recalls* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence, intimidation and harassment against a person or a group of persons belonging to a religious minority, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

8. *Emphasizes* that freedom of religion or belief, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to peaceful assembly and the right to freedom of association are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

9. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of hatred based on religion or belief that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

10. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of institutionalized social intolerance and discrimination practised against many on the grounds of religion or belief, and emphasizes that legal procedures pertaining to religious or belief-based groups and places of worship are not a prerequisite for the exercise of the right to manifest one's religion or belief and that such procedures, when legally required at the national or local level, should be non-discriminatory in order to contribute to the effective protection of the right of all persons to practise their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others and in public or private;

11. *Recognizes with concern* the challenges that persons in vulnerable situations, including persons deprived of their liberty, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, children, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and migrants, as well as women, are facing as regards their ability to freely exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief;

12. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, are non-discriminatory and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

13. *Expresses deep concern* at continued obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief, as well as the increasing number of instances of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief, including:

(a) Acts of violence and intolerance directed against individuals based on their religion or belief, including religious persons and persons belonging to religious minorities and other communities in various parts of the world;

(b) The rise of religious extremism in various parts of the world that affects the human rights of individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities;

(c) Incidents of hatred, discrimination, intolerance and violence based on religion or belief, which may be associated with or manifested by the derogatory

stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief;

(d) Attacks on or the destruction of religious places, sites and shrines that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as they have more than material significance for the dignity and lives of persons holding spiritual or religious beliefs;

(e) Instances, both in law and practice, that constitute violations of the human right to freedom of religion or belief, including of the individual right to publicly express one's spiritual and religious beliefs, taking into account the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other international instruments;

(f) Constitutional and legislative systems that fail to provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction;

14. *Urges* States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to that end:

(a) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction by, inter alia, providing access to justice, including by facilitating legal assistance and effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief or the right to freely choose and practise one's religion or belief is violated, paying particular attention to persons belonging to religious minorities;

(b) To implement all accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief;

(c) To ensure that no one within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life, liberty and security of person because of religion or belief, to provide adequate protection to persons at risk of violent attack on the grounds of their religion or belief, to ensure that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

(d) To end violations of the human rights of women and girls and to devote particular attention to appropriate measures modifying or abolishing existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminate against them, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to foster practical ways to ensure gender equality;

(e) To ensure that existing legislation is not implemented in a discriminatory manner or does not result in discrimination based on religion or belief, that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief when accessing, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits, and that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination based on religion or belief;

(f) To review, whenever relevant, existing registration practices in order to ensure that such practices do not limit the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private;

(g) To ensure that no official documents are withheld from the individual on the grounds of religion or belief and that everyone has the right to refrain from

disclosing information concerning their religious affiliation in such documents against their will;

(h) To ensure, in particular, the right of all persons to worship, assemble or teach in connection with a religion or belief, their right to establish and maintain places for these purposes and the right of all persons to seek, receive and impart information and ideas in these areas;

(i) To ensure that, in accordance with appropriate national legislation and in conformity with international human rights law, the freedom of all persons and members of groups to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions is fully respected and protected;

(j) To ensure that all public officials and civil servants, including members of law enforcement bodies, and personnel of detention facilities, the military and educators, in the course of fulfilling their official duties, respect freedom of religion or belief and do not discriminate for reasons based on religion or belief, and that they receive all necessary and appropriate awareness-raising, education or training on respect for freedom of religion or belief;

(k) To take all necessary and appropriate action, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, as well as incitement to hostility and violence, with particular regard to persons belonging to religious minorities in all parts of the world;

(l) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(m) To prevent any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief that impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and to detect signs of intolerance that may lead to discrimination based on religion or belief;

15. *Welcomes and encourages* initiatives by the media to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief, and stresses the importance of unhindered participation in the media and in public discourse for all persons, regardless of their religion or belief;

16. *Stresses* the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and welcomes different initiatives in this regard, including the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations initiative and the programmes led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

17. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of all actors in society, including national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,⁵ and further encourages their work in promoting freedom of religion or belief, in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution and in promoting religious tolerance;

⁵ Resolution 36/55.

18. *Recommends* that States, the United Nations and other actors, including national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration in as many different languages as possible and promote its implementation;

19. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work and the interim report on freedom of thought of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on freedom of religion or belief;⁶

20. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to respond favourably to his requests to visit their countries and to provide all information and follow-up necessary for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the resources necessary to fully discharge his mandate;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session;

23. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its seventy-seventh session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

⁶ See [A/76/380](#).

Draft resolution III

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolutions [16/18](#) of 24 March 2011,¹ [19/25](#) of 23 March 2012,² [22/31](#) of 22 March 2013,³ [28/29](#) of 27 March 2015,⁴ [31/26](#) of 24 March 2016,⁵ [34/32](#) of 24 March 2017,⁶ [37/38](#) of 23 March 2018,⁷ [40/25](#) of 22 March 2019⁸ and [43/34](#) of 22 June 2020,⁹ and General Assembly resolutions [67/178](#) of 20 December 2012, [68/169](#) of 18 December 2013, [69/174](#) of 18 December 2014, [70/157](#) of 17 December 2015, [71/195](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/176](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/164](#) of 17 December 2018, [74/164](#) of 18 December 2019 and [75/187](#) of 16 December 2020,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

Reaffirming also that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming further that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹⁰ provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, and to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Reaffirming the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Expressing deep concern at those acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of tolerance and respect for diversity,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

² *Ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum ([A/67/53](#) and [A/67/53/Corr.1](#)), chap. III, sect. A.

³ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/70/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹⁰ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Condemning the criminal acts committed by terrorist and extremist groups and movements against persons based on their religion or belief, and deeply regretting attempts to link such acts to any one specific religion or belief,

Reaffirming that violence can never be an acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief,

Recalling its adoption of resolutions 69/140 of 15 December 2014, 70/19 of 3 December 2015, 71/249 of 22 December 2016, 72/136 of 11 December 2017, 73/129 of 12 December 2018, 74/23 of 12 December 2019 and 75/26 of 2 December 2020 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace, 69/312 of 6 July 2015 on the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and 67/104 of 17 December 2012, in which the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2013–2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

Deeply concerned about continuing incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

Deploing any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

Strongly deploring also all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines, which are in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Deeply concerned about the prevalence of impunity in some instances, and the lack of accountability in some cases, in addressing violence against persons on the basis of religion or belief in public and private spheres, and stressing the importance of making the necessary efforts to raise awareness to address the spread of hate speech against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Concerned about actions that wilfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief, in particular actions that seek to prevent their exercise and full enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief,

Expressing deep concern at the instances of intolerance and discrimination and acts of violence occurring in the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Expressing concern at the growing manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief, which can generate hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations and which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make

towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Underlining the fact that States, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining also the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for religious and cultural diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining further the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Underlining further that educational measures, youth forums, strategic plans and public information and media campaigns, including online platforms, may contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief,

Recognizing that working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increasing interreligious, interfaith and intercultural efforts and expanding human rights education are important first steps in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

Recalling its resolution [72/241](#), entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”, adopted by consensus on 20 December 2017, welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting intercultural dialogue, the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the work of the Anna Lindh Euro-Mediterranean Foundation for the Dialogue between Cultures in Alexandria, Egypt, and the work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, and recalling also its resolution [65/5](#) of 20 October 2010 on World Interfaith Harmony Week, proposed by King Abdullah II of Jordan,

Welcoming in this regard all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief, and recalling the initiative of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement that could lead to atrocity crimes and the declaration of its forum held in Fez, Morocco, on 23 and 24 April 2015, the Istanbul Process for Combating Intolerance, Discrimination and Incitement to Hatred and/or Violence on the Basis of Religion or Belief, the announcement on 6 October 2016 of the establishment by the United Arab Emirates of the International Institute for Tolerance for promoting the value of tolerance among nations, the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security adopted on 22 August 2015 and the sixth Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, held in Nur-Sultan on 10 and 11 October 2018, as well as the initiative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its outcome document, the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, adopted in Rabat on 5 October 2012,¹¹

¹¹ [A/HRC/22/17/Add.4](#), appendix.

Taking note with appreciation of the continuation of the organization of workshops and meetings within the framework of the Istanbul Process and the promotion of effective implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 to counter global violence, religious discrimination and intolerance, in particular the sixth implementation meeting of the Process, hosted by Singapore on 20 and 21 July 2016,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹²
2. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programmes and agendas pursued by extremist individuals, organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments;
3. *Expresses concern* that the number of incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continues to rise around the world, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution and consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;
4. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;
5. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels, can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and expresses its conviction that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;
6. *Also recognizes* the strong need for global awareness about the possible serious implications of incitement to discrimination and violence, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and urges all Member States to make renewed efforts to develop educational systems that promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms that enhance tolerance for religious and cultural diversity, which is fundamental to promoting tolerant, peaceful and harmonious multicultural societies;
7. *Calls upon* all States to take the following actions, as called for by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect by:
 - (a) Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;
 - (b) Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;

¹² A/76/164.

(c) Encouraging the training of government officials in effective outreach strategies;

(d) Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination and developing strategies to counter those causes;

(e) Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

(f) Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;

(g) Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;

(h) Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;

8. *Also calls upon* all States:

(a) To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against individuals on the basis of religion or belief;

(b) To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

(c) To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;

(d) To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other investigative law enforcement procedures;

9. *Further calls upon* all States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines and to take protective measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;

10. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs;

11. *Encourages* all States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include those updates in her reports to the Human Rights Council;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report that includes information provided by the High Commissioner on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, as set forth in the present resolution.

Draft resolution IV

International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [61/177](#) of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,¹

Recalling its resolution [47/133](#) of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also all its other resolutions on the matter, including resolutions [70/160](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/183](#) of 19 December 2017 and [74/161](#) of 18 December 2019, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution [36/6](#) of 28 September 2017² and resolution [45/3](#) of 6 October 2020,³

Recalling further its resolution [68/165](#) of 18 December 2013 on the right to the truth, as well as Human Rights Council resolution [36/7](#) of 28 September 2017 on the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence,⁴

Recalling its resolution [73/162](#) of 17 December 2018 on the human rights treaty body system,

Recalling also that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance,

Recalling further that no exceptional circumstance whatsoever may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance,

Recalling that no one shall be held in secret detention,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearance or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Recalling that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Recalling also that the Convention defines the victim of enforced disappearance as the disappeared person and any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance,

Acknowledging that the widespread or systematic practice of enforced disappearance is recognized in the Convention as a crime against humanity, as defined in applicable international law,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

Stressing the importance of the work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances,

Taking note of the recommendation made by the Working Group that more assistance should be provided to family members and members of civil society in order to enable them to report alleged cases of enforced disappearance to the Working Group, given that, in a large number of cases, the underreporting of cases of enforced disappearance remains a major problem owing to various reasons, including, inter alia, fear of reprisal, weak administration of justice, poverty and illiteracy,

Calling upon States that have not provided substantive replies concerning claims of enforced disappearances in their countries to do so, and to give due consideration to relevant recommendations concerning this issue made by the Working Group in its reports,

Encouraging the Working Group, in accordance with its working methods, to continue to provide the States concerned with relevant and detailed information concerning allegations of enforced disappearances in order to facilitate a prompt and substantive response to such communications without prejudice to the need for the States concerned to cooperate with the Working Group,

Recalling the high-level meeting of the General Assembly held on 17 February 2017 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, which provided an opportunity to review the positive impact of the Convention and to discuss ways and best practices to prevent enforced disappearances and to combat impunity by, inter alia, promoting the universal ratification of the Convention,

Recalling with appreciation the launch by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of an international campaign for the universal ratification of the Convention,

Recalling with appreciation also the decision of the General Assembly to declare 30 August International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances,

Recalling with appreciation further the decision of the General Assembly in its resolution [65/196](#) of 21 December 2010 to proclaim, pursuant to the recommendation made by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [14/7](#) of 17 June 2010,⁵ 24 March as the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims,

Acknowledging the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

Deeply concerned that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has created new contexts where enforced disappearances may occur and that measures related to fighting the pandemic have impacted the capacity of many actors to take the necessary action to search for disappeared persons and to investigate their alleged enforced disappearance,

Urging Member States to address gender-based violence, including as related to cases of enforced disappearance, and recalling that such violence can never be justified and that Member States should ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic does not limit measures taken to prevent and address enforced disappearances, including those involving gender-based violence, especially against women and girls,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the ratification and the

⁵ Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum ([A/65/53](#) and [A/65/53/Corr.1](#)), chap. III, sect. A.

implementation of which is a significant contribution to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

2. *Welcomes* the fact that 98 States have signed the Convention and 64 have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Also welcomes* the most recent reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention;⁶

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, including by supporting the actions of States to ratify the Convention, providing technical and capacity-building assistance to States and civil society and raising awareness about the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

5. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to continue to make efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument, especially in the context of the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Working Group in 2020;

6. *Recalls with appreciation* the first Conference of the States Parties to the Convention, held in Geneva on 19 December 2016, and convened in accordance with article 27 of the Convention, and the decision adopted by consensus that the Committee would continue to monitor the Convention in accordance with its mandate;⁷

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the sixth meeting of the States parties to the Convention, held in New York on 14 June 2021, and its discussion of substantive matters related to the Convention, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to continue to include such a discussion in the agenda of the meeting of the States parties;

8. *Welcomes* the work achieved by the Committee, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to submit their reports, to support and promote the work of the Committee and to implement its recommendations;

9. *Calls upon* all States parties to further cooperate with the Committee, including by responding favourably to its requests for visits;

10. *Takes note* of the guiding principles for the search for disappeared persons adopted by the Committee at its sixteenth session and developed in dialogue and broad consultations with Member States and other relevant stakeholders;⁸

11. *Recognizes* the importance of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance⁹ as a body of principles for all States that is designed to punish enforced disappearances, to prevent their commission and to help victims of such acts and their families to seek fair, prompt and adequate reparation;

⁶ A/74/213 and A/76/315.

⁷ See CED/CSP/2016/4.

⁸ See CED/C/7.

⁹ Resolution 47/133.

12. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Working Group and the Committee, within the framework of their respective mandates, as well as with other relevant special procedures and treaty bodies, within the framework of their respective mandates, and encourages them to continue their cooperation in the future;

13. *Takes note with interest* of all the general comments of the Working Group, including the comments on children¹⁰ and women¹¹ affected by enforced disappearances, and recognizes in this regard that enforced disappearances have special consequences for women and vulnerable groups, especially children, as they most often bear the serious economic hardships that usually accompany such disappearances and, when subjected to enforced disappearances themselves, may become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence;

14. *Takes note* of the need to document cases concerning enforced or involuntary disappearances allegedly perpetrated by non-State actors, as decided by the Working Group;

15. *Welcomes* the fact that the Committee held its annual meeting with the Working Group, as an opportunity to take stock of the activities of the two parallel organs, which are complementary and reinforce each other within the framework of their respective mandates;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guidelines to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups cooperating with the Committee adopted by the Committee at its twentieth session;¹²

17. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the key guidelines on COVID-19 and enforced disappearances, in which the Working Group and the Committee recalled that enforced disappearance is prohibited in all circumstances and called upon Member States to continue, during the COVID-19 pandemic, to respect their international obligations;

18. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee and the Chair of the Working Group to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution;

20. *Decides* to give its full consideration to the subject matter at its seventy-eighth session.

¹⁰ [A/HRC/WGEID/98/1](#) and [A/HRC/WGEID/98/1/Corr.1](#).

¹¹ [A/HRC/WGEID/98/2](#).

¹² See [CED/C/8](#).

Draft resolution V

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,¹ for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recalling its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which the General Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling also its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000,² its resolution [75/180](#) of 16 December 2020, Human Rights Council resolution [47/9](#) of 12 July 2021³ and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling further the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the political declarations of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth⁴ and twentieth⁵ anniversaries of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Underlining that cooperation is not just a matter of relations of good-neighbourliness, coexistence or reciprocity, but rather of a willingness to look beyond mutual interests in order to advance the general interest,

Stressing the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of all in every country, including, in particular, in developing countries,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

¹ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

² Resolution [55/2](#).

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

⁴ Resolution [66/3](#).

⁵ Resolution [76/1](#).

Reiterating the important role that genuine human rights dialogue can play in the enhancement of cooperation in the field of human rights at the bilateral, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation and genuine dialogue contributes to the effective functioning of the international human rights system,

Emphasizing that human rights dialogue should be constructive and based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity, non-selectivity, non-politicization, mutual respect and equal treatment, with the aim of facilitating mutual understanding and strengthening constructive cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical cooperation between States,

Emphasizing also the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the adoption of resolution 2000/22 of 18 August 2000, on the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues, by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session,⁶

1. *Reaffirms* that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of peace, tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to cooperate with one another in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including with respect to the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance;

5. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

7. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United

⁶ See E/CN.4/2001/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/46, chap. II, sect. A.

Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, cooperation and genuine dialogue, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universal periodic review as a mechanism based on cooperation and constructive dialogue with the objective of, inter alia, improving the situation of human rights on the ground and promoting the fulfilment of the human rights obligations and commitments undertaken by States;

10. *Also emphasizes* the need for a cooperative and constructive approach on the part of all stakeholders to resolving human rights issues in international forums;

11. *Further emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in increasing the capacities of Member States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

12. *Calls upon* Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

13. *Urges* States to take measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

14. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

15. *Encourages* all Member States and the United Nations system to explore and foster complementarities among North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation aiming at the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as on obstacles and challenges and possible proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation and genuine dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

17. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution VI

Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this question,

Reaffirming the importance of the goal of universal ratification of the United Nations human rights instruments,

Welcoming the significant increase in the number of ratifications of United Nations human rights instruments and the movement of some treaties towards universal ratification,

Reiterating the importance of the effective functioning of the treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments for the full and effective implementation of those instruments,

Recognizing that the equitable geographical distribution of membership is an essential requirement for the effective functioning of the treaty bodies,

Recalling that, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights recognized the importance of giving consideration in their membership to equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights,

Reaffirming the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, as well as of different political, economic and legal systems,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Recognizing that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding,

Recalling that the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights encouraged States parties to United Nations human rights treaties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how to give better effect, inter alia, to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of treaty bodies,

Expressing its concern at the regional imbalance in the current composition of the membership of the human rights treaty bodies in favour in particular of representatives of members from Western European and other States, as indicated and highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing efforts to address that imbalance,

Convinced that the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies is perfectly compatible and can be fully realized and achieved in harmony with the need to achieve gender balance and the representation of the principal legal systems in those bodies and the high moral

¹ [A/76/262](#).

character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights of their members,

1. *Reiterates* that the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments should take into account, in their nomination of members to the human rights treaty bodies, that these committees shall be composed of persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, consideration being given to the usefulness of the participation of persons having legal experience and to equal representation of women and men, and that members shall serve in their personal capacity, and also reiterates that, in the elections to the human rights treaty bodies, strong consideration shall be given to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems;

2. *Urges* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, including the bureau members, to include this matter in the agenda of each meeting and/or conference of States parties to those instruments in order to initiate a debate on ways and means to ensure equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, based on previous recommendations of the former Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council and the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Encourages* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments to consider and adopt concrete actions, inter alia, the possible establishment of quotas by geographical region for membership of the treaty bodies, thereby ensuring the paramount objective of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of those human rights bodies;

4. *Recommends*, when considering the possible allocation of seats on each treaty body on a regional basis, the introduction of flexible procedures that encompass the following criteria:

(a) Each of the five regional groups established by the General Assembly is allocated seats on each treaty body in equivalent proportion to the number of States parties to the instrument in that group;

(b) There must be provision for periodic revisions of the allocation of seats in order to reflect relative changes in the level of treaty ratification in each regional group;

(c) Automatic periodic revisions should be envisaged in order to avoid amending the text of the instrument when the quotas are revised;

5. *Stresses* that the process needed to achieve the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies can contribute to raising awareness of the importance of gender balance, the representation of the principal legal systems and the principle that the members of the treaty bodies shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a comprehensive updated report in this regard, including information on any steps taken by States parties at meetings or conferences of States parties to address the matter of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, as well as concrete recommendations on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution VII

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on this subject, the most recent of which was resolution [75/181](#) of 16 December 2020, and Human Rights Council decision 18/120 of 30 September 2011¹ and resolutions [24/14](#) of 27 September 2013,² [27/21](#) of 26 September 2014,³ [30/2](#) of 1 October 2015,⁴ [36/10](#) of 28 September 2017,⁵ [37/21](#) of 23 March 2018,⁶ [40/3](#) of 21 March 2019,⁷ [43/15](#) of 22 June 2020⁸ and [46/5](#) of 23 March 2021,⁹ as well as previous resolutions of the Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [3281 \(XXIX\)](#) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Recalling the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolutions [52/120](#) of 12 December 1997¹⁰ and [55/110](#) of 4 December 2000,¹¹

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and in this regard reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011,¹² the Final Document of the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 25 and 26 October 2019,¹³ and the documents adopted at previous summits and conferences, in which States members of the Movement agreed to oppose and condemn unilateral coercive measures and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them, urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other organs of the United Nations, and request States applying those measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately,

Recalling also that, at the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, States were called upon to refrain from any unilateral

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/66/53/Add.1](#) and [A/66/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. III.

² *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53A* ([A/68/53/Add.1](#)), chap. III.

³ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda ([A/69/53/Add.1](#), [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#) and [A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 53A* ([A/70/53/Add.1](#)), chap. III.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* ([A/72/53/Add.1](#)), chap. III.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/73/53](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/74/53](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/75/53](#)), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53* ([A/76/53](#)), chap. V, sect. A.

¹⁰ [A/53/293](#) and [A/53/293/Add.1](#).

¹¹ [A/56/207](#) and [A/56/207/Add.1](#).

¹² [A/65/896-S/2011/407](#), annex I.

¹³ [A/74/548](#), annex.

measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter that creates obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights¹⁴ and also severely threatens the freedom of trade,

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,¹⁵ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,¹⁶ the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All and the Quito implementation plan for the New Urban Agenda, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) on 20 October 2016,¹⁷ and in the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries,

Expressing concern about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Expressing grave concern that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities,

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this question by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented, with all their negative implications for the social humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Bearing in mind all the extraterritorial effects of any unilateral legislative, administrative and economic measures, policies and practices of a coercive nature against the development process and the enhancement of human rights in developing countries, which create obstacles to the full realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development¹⁸ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

¹⁴ See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

¹⁵ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

¹⁶ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

¹⁸ Resolution 41/128, annex.

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries,

Recognizing also that the poorest and those who may be vulnerable or in vulnerable situations, within and among countries, are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as progress with regard to the right to development,

Deeply concerned about the situation of States facing both unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizing that such States have to overcome additional obstacles derived from the application of unilateral coercive measures in order to respond to and recover from the pandemic,

Recognizing the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, on the capacities of targeted countries to have equal access to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic,

Concerned about the fact that the frequency, type, target and scope of application of unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, have expanded enormously in the international arena,

Recalling article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹⁹ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,²⁰ which provides, inter alia, that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Noting the continuing efforts of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, and reaffirming in particular its criteria, according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

1. *Urges* all States to cease adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature, with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights²¹ and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Strongly urges* States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of sustainable economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

¹⁹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

3. *Condemns* the inclusion of Member States in unilateral lists under false pretexts, which are contrary to international law and the Charter, including false allegations of terrorism sponsorship, considering such lists as instruments for political or economic pressure against Member States, particularly developing countries;

4. *Urges* all States not to adopt any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinder their well-being and that create obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for his or her health and well-being and his or her right to food, medical care and education and the necessary social services, as well as to ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure;

5. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and in this context calls upon all Member States neither to recognize those measures nor to apply them, as well as to take administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial applications or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

6. *Condemns* the continuing unilateral application and enforcement by certain Powers of unilateral coercive measures, and rejects those measures, with all their extraterritorial effects, as being tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, adopted with a view to preventing those countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, and because of the negative effects of those measures on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

7. *Expresses grave concern* that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

8. *Reaffirms* that essential goods such as food and medicines, including vaccines, should not be used as tools for political coercion, in particular in the context of global health challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

9. *Also reaffirms* its resolution [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, in which it recognized the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the COVID-19 pandemic;

10. *Recognizes* the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, through safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines for all, including countries affected by unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter;

11. *Welcomes* the appeal made by the Secretary-General, on 26 March 2020, on the waiving of sanctions that undermine countries' capacity to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and the statement made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 23 March, on the need to ease or suspend

sectoral sanctions in the light of their potentially debilitating impact on the health sector and human rights;

12. *Reaffirms its commitment* to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

13. *Emphasizes* that the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the short- and long-term impacts of unilateral coercive measures, which are not in accordance with international law or the Charter, on the enjoyment of all categories of civil, economic, social and cultural rights;

14. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by revoking such measures at the earliest possible time;

15. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

16. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970, and the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution [3281 \(XXIX\)](#), in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

17. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, and urges the Human Rights Council to take fully into account the negative impact of those measures, including through the enactment and extraterritorial application of national laws that are not in conformity with international law, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

18. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development and bearing in mind the continuing impact of unilateral coercive measures on the population of developing countries, to give priority to the present resolution in her annual report to the General Assembly;

19. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²² and in this regard calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of national laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries, as recognized by the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council;

20. *Recognizes* that, in the Declaration of Principles adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,²³ States were strongly urged to avoid and refrain from any

²² Resolution [70/1](#).

²³ [A/C.2/59/3](#), annex, chap. I, sect. A.

unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations in building the information society;

21. *Reaffirms* paragraph 30 of the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which States are strongly urged to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

22. *Recalls* the decision of the Human Rights Council, in its resolution [27/21](#), to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and welcomes the work done in delivering her mandate;

23. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights;²⁴

24. *Recalls* the decision taken by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution [36/10](#), to extend, for a period of three years, the mandate of the Special Rapporteur as set out in Council resolution [27/21](#);

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and also requests them, in discharging their functions in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, to pay due attention and to give urgent consideration to the present resolution;

26. *Recalls* that the Human Rights Council took note of the research-based progress report of its Advisory Committee containing recommendations on mechanisms to assess the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability;²⁵

27. *Also recalls* the contribution of the first biennial panel discussion on the issue of unilateral coercive measures and human rights organized by the Human Rights Council in 2015 to increase awareness of the negative impact that unilateral coercive measures have on the enjoyment of human rights in the targeted and non-targeted countries, and invites the Council to follow up on the discussion at the fourth panel discussion, in 2021;

28. *Invites* the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue paying attention to and explore ways to address the negative impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures;

29. *Reiterates its support* for the invitation of the Human Rights Council to all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

30. *Takes note with interest* of the proposals contained in the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, and requests the Special Rapporteur to include in her

²⁴ [A/76/174](#).

²⁵ [A/HRC/28/74](#).

report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session more information on the process regarding the discussions of her proposals at the Human Rights Council;

31. *Reaffirms* the request of the Human Rights Council that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in the States targeted;

32. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the access of targeted countries to vaccines;

33. *Invites* Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of her mandate through, inter alia, the submission of comments and suggestions on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights;

34. *Decides* to examine the question on a priority basis at its seventy-seventh session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” of the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

Draft resolution VIII

Human rights and cultural diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions [54/160](#) of 17 December 1999, [55/91](#) of 4 December 2000, [57/204](#) of 18 December 2002, [58/167](#) of 22 December 2003, [60/167](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/155](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/174](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/154](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/159](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/156](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/170](#) of 19 December 2017 and [74/159](#) of 18 December 2019, and recalling further its resolutions [54/113](#) of 10 December 1999, [55/23](#) of 13 November 2000 and [60/4](#) of 20 October 2005 concerning the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

Noting that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation proclaimed on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,⁴

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁵

Recalling that, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to its resolution [2625 \(XXV\)](#) of 24 October 1970, States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance,

Recalling also the adoption, by its resolution [56/6](#) of 9 November 2001, of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,

Recalling further the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the high-level meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth and twentieth anniversaries of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,⁶ held on 22 September 2011 and 2021, respectively, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁷ together with its Action Plan,⁸

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

⁵ [A/76/244](#).

⁶ See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

⁷ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October–3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, sect. V, resolution 25, annex I.

⁸ Ibid., annex II.

adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan, with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

Recalling also the Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 3 and 4 September 2007,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Expressing concern over the adverse impacts of lack of respect for and recognition of cultural diversity on human rights, justice, friendship and the fundamental right to development,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Recognizing also the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the development and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Taking into account that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures, and in that regard recalling its resolutions [75/25](#) of 2 December 2020, [75/26](#) of 2 December 2020, [75/200](#) of 21 December 2020, [75/258](#) of 21 January 2021 and [75/309](#) of 21 July 2021,

Reaffirming that discriminatory treatment against different cultures and religions is detrimental to the principle of the equality of human beings,

Recognizing that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values,

Recognizing also that the promotion of the rights of indigenous people and their cultures and traditions will contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations,

Considering that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred, violence and extremism among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind,

Convinced that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of

all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

Acknowledging the diversity of the world, recognizing that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, acknowledging the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and, in order to promote international peace and security, committing itself to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

1. *Affirms* the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

2. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to development and the achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. *Recalls* that, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, or to limit their scope;

4. *Also recalls* the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹ in which Member States acknowledged the natural and cultural diversity of the world and recognized that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development;

5. *Recognizes* the importance given to cultural diversity in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in Sustainable Development Goal 4, related to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all;

6. *Also recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

7. *Affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;

8. *Expresses its determination* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;

9. *Affirms* that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;

10. *Recalls* the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity,

⁹ Resolution [70/1](#).

including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;

11. *Emphasizes* that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations on the basis of equal dignity should be enhanced, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, suppressing xenophobia and promoting respect for diversity, and in that regard also emphasizes that States should oppose all attempts at uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of social or cultural systems and promote dialogue among civilizations, a culture of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security and development;

12. *Welcomes* the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran, and acknowledges the important role that the Centre plays in the promotion of the universality of all human rights, as well as their realization;

13. *Recognizes* that respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

14. *Emphasizes* that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity;

15. *Also emphasizes* that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

16. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

17. *Calls upon* States, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to support and embark on intercultural initiatives on human rights in order to promote all human rights, thereby enriching their universality;

18. *Urges* States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

19. *Calls upon* States, international organizations and United Nations agencies, and invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to recognize and promote respect for cultural diversity for the purpose of advancing the objectives of peace, development and universally accepted human rights;

20. *Stresses* the necessity of freely using the media and new information and communications technologies to create the conditions for a renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

21. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to bear in mind fully the issues raised in the present resolution in the course of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights;

22. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to support initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights;

23. *Urges* relevant international organizations to conduct studies on how respect for cultural diversity contributes to fostering international solidarity and cooperation among all nations;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;

25. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its seventy-eighth session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” of the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

Draft resolution IX

The right to development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, which expresses, in particular, the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and, to that end, to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ as well as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³

Recalling also the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [41/128](#) of 4 December 1986, which confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations, and that the individual is the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Emphasizing the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

Stressing the importance of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action⁴ reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights and the individual as the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Reaffirming the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2000,⁵

Recognizing the importance of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁶ reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development informed the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant international instruments, and underlining the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals can be realized only through a credible, effective and universal commitment to the means of implementation by all stakeholders,

Recognizing also the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, that recognizes that the New Urban Agenda⁷ is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁸ and is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

⁵ Resolution [55/2](#).

⁶ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁷ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

⁸ Resolution [60/1](#).

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁹

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development, and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis.

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and its outcome document,¹⁰

Deeply concerned that the majority of indigenous peoples in the world live in conditions of poverty, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty and inequity on indigenous peoples by ensuring their full and effective inclusion in development and poverty eradication programmes,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and in that context noting that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in the entire world,

Recognizing that inequality is a major obstacle to the realization of the right to development within and across countries,

Taking note of the commitment declared by a number of specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all, and in this regard urging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, as well as into development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling the outcomes adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015,

Calling for a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to development,

Recalling the outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, on the theme “From decision to action: moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development”,¹¹

Recalling also all its previous resolutions on the subject, the most recent of which was resolution 75/182 of 16 December 2020, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to

⁹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 69/2.

¹¹ See TD/519, TD/519/Add.1, TD/519/Add.2 and TD/519/Add.2/Corr.1.

development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998¹² on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 35/21 of 22 June 2017 on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights,¹³

Recalling the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 25 and 26 October 2019, and the previous summits and conferences at which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority, including through the elaboration of a convention on the right to development by the relevant machinery, taking into account the recommendations of relevant initiatives,

Reiterating its continuing support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development¹⁴ as a development framework for Africa,

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries,

Recognizing also that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as progress with regard to the right to development,

Deeply concerned about the uneven access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasizing that the realization of the right to development would enhance the capacities of developing countries to have equal access to vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the pandemic, as well as the need to strengthen the support for national, bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives that aim to accelerate the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines,

Recognizing that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

Recognizing also that Member States should cooperate with one another in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular to revitalize a global partnership for development, for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective

¹² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

¹³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹⁴ [A/57/304](#), annex.

development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing further that poverty is an affront to human dignity,

Recognizing that extreme poverty and hunger are among the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for their eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1 and Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Recognizing also that historical injustices, inter alia, have contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparity, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing further that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, which requires a multifaceted and integrated approach, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Emphasizing that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Emphasizing also that the right to development is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should be central to its implementation,

Encouraging relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the fulfilment of her mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the promotion and realization of the right to development;¹⁵

2. *Acknowledges* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

3. *Emphasizes* the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) of 15 March 2006 establishing the Human Rights Council, and in this regard calls upon the Council to implement the agreement to continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve, and also in this regard to lead the raising of the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of

¹⁵ [A/HRC/48/26](#).

the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development,¹⁶ and recognizes the need for renewed efforts with a view to overcoming the existing political impasse within the Working Group and to fulfil at the earliest its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007;¹⁷

5. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session¹⁸ that are congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

6. *Takes note* of the convening of the twenty-first session of the Working Group;

7. *Notes* the presentation to the Working Group at its nineteenth session of the set of standards for the implementation of the right to development prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur,¹⁹ which is a useful basis for further deliberations on the implementation and realization of the right to development;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the Working Group, including, inter alia, on the elaboration of a draft legally binding instrument on the right to development on the basis of the draft prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur, as decided by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 42/23 of 27 September 2019,²⁰ and in this regard notes the report of the Chair-Rapporteur entitled “Draft convention on the right to development”,²¹ submitted to the Working Group at its twenty-first session;

9. *Stresses* that it is important that the Chair-Rapporteur and the Working Group, in the discharge of their mandates, take into account the need:

(a) To promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

(b) To also promote effective partnerships such as the New Partnership for Africa’s Development and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, for the purpose of the realization of their right to development, including the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

(c) To strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also while urging all States to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring development and eliminating

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/63/53/Add.1)*, chap. I.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹⁸ See *E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1*, sect. VIII.A.

¹⁹ *A/HRC/WG.2/17/2*.

²⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

²¹ *A/HRC/WG.2/21/2*.

obstacles to development in the context of promoting effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

(d) To consider ways and means to continue to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority, including in the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through equitable and fair access for all countries, particularly the most vulnerable countries and countries in special situations, to vaccines and medicines as global public goods, sharing the benefits of scientific progress, financial and technological support and debt relief;

(e) To mainstream the right to development into the policies and operational activities of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as in the policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment arising from political or other non-economic considerations in addressing the issues of concern to the developing countries;

10. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue to consider how to ensure follow-up to the work of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and in compliance with decisions to be taken by the Council;

11. *Takes note* of the convening, in 2020, of the first and second sessions, and in 2021, of the third and fourth sessions of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [42/23](#), and noting the annual report of the Expert Mechanism;²²

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to development,²³ in which the Special Rapporteur explores the relationship between the right to development and climate change;

13. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and hence should not result in a reduction of North-South cooperation or hamper progress in fulfilling existing official development assistance commitments, and encourages Member States and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate the right to development into the design, financing and implementation of cooperation processes;

14. *Urges* Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to provide the Special Rapporteur on the right to development with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of his mandate;

15. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implement the goals and targets set out in all the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their review processes, in particular those relating to the realization of the right to

²² [A/HRC/45/29](#) and [A/HRC/48/62](#).

²³ [A/76/154](#).

development, recognizing that the realization of the right to development is critical to achieving the objectives, goals and targets set out in those outcome documents;

16. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, a lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

17. *Further reaffirms* that development contributes significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and calls upon all countries to realize people-centred development of the people, by the people and for the people;

18. *Calls upon* all States to spare no effort in promoting and protecting all human rights for all, including the right to development, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and responding to and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as it is conducive to the overall enjoyment of human rights;

19. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights lies with the State, and reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

20. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, as well as their commitment to cooperate with one another to that end;

21. *Also reaffirms* its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

22. *Further reaffirms* its resolution [74/274](#) of 20 April 2020, in which it recognized the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the COVID-19 pandemic;

23. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies that contributes to the realization of the right to development and leaves no one behind;

24. *Expresses concern* about the increasing cases of human rights violations and abuses by some transnational corporations and other business enterprises, underlines the need to ensure that appropriate protection, justice and remedies are provided to the victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from their activities, and underscores the fact that these entities must contribute to the means of implementation for the realization of the right to development;

25. *Reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;

26. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of identifying and analysing obstacles impeding the full realization of the right to development at both the national and

international levels, including in the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

27. *Reaffirms* that, while globalization offers both opportunities and challenges, the process of globalization remains deficient in achieving the objectives of integrating all countries into a globalized world, stresses the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process is to be made fully inclusive and equitable, and recognizes that globalization has brought disparities between and within countries and that issues such as trade and trade liberalization, the transfer of technology, infrastructure development and market access should be managed effectively in order to mitigate the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment and to make the right to development a reality for everyone;

28. *Recognizes* that, despite continuous efforts on the part of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that most of the developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

29. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development owing to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the effects of international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries;

30. *Encourages* Member States to give particular consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and emphasizes that the 2030 Agenda promotes the respect for all human rights, including the right to development;

31. *Recalls* the commitment in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, notes with concern that some developing countries have failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard invites Member States and the international community to take proactive measures aimed at creating a conducive environment to contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular increasing international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

32. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to the least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

33. *Recognizes* the need to address market access for developing countries, including in the sectors of agriculture, services and non-agricultural products, in particular those of interest to developing countries;

34. *Calls once again for* the implementation of a desirable pace of meaningful trade liberalization, including in areas under negotiation in the World Trade Organization, the implementation of commitments on implementation-related issues and concerns, a review of special and differential treatment provisions, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, the

avoidance of new forms of protectionism, and capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries as important issues in making progress towards the effective implementation of the right to development;

35. *Recognizes* the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development, stresses in this regard the need for good governance and for broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions, and also stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

36. *Also recognizes* that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

37. *Further recognizes* the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development, and notes in particular the positive relationship between the education of women and their equal participation in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social activities of the community and the promotion of the right to development;

38. *Stresses* the need for the integration of the rights of children, girls and boys alike, in all policies and programmes and for ensuring the promotion and protection of those rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities;

39. *Takes note* of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2021 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS,²⁴ and underscores the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, including the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, implement universal access to health-care services and address health challenges;

40. *Recalls* the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases²⁵ and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis,²⁶ both adopted on 10 October 2018, with their particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic determinants and impacts, particularly for developing countries;

41. *Also recalls* the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”, as adopted in its resolution 74/2 of 10 October 2019, in which it was reaffirmed that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

²⁴ Resolution 75/284, annex.

²⁵ Resolution 73/2.

²⁶ Resolution 73/3.

42. *Further recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,²⁷ which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and, while recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, stresses the need to take into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts in the realization of the right to development;

43. *Stresses its commitment* to indigenous peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, reaffirms the commitment to promote their rights in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security, in accordance with recognized international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007, and in this regard recalls the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in 2014;

44. *Recognizes* the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

45. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to take concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²⁸ particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

46. *Also emphasizes* the need to strengthen further the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and realization of the right to development, including by ensuring the effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office with the necessary resources;

47. *Reaffirms* the request to the High Commissioner, in mainstreaming the right to development, to effectively undertake activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions and to reflect those activities in detail in her next report to the Human Rights Council;

48. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to mainstream the right to development into their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development into their policies and objectives;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international

²⁷ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

50. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the fulfilment of her mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development;

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including on efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, taking into account the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through equitable and fair access for all countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries and countries in special situations, to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines and medicines as global public goods, as well as to promote global extensive immunization against COVID-19, sharing the benefits of scientific progress, financial and technological support and debt relief, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur to present an oral report with a similar scope and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

Draft resolution X
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

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenants on Human Rights² and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in the field of human rights should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Recalling its previous resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,³ and the elimination of double standards,

Reaffirming also the importance of the objectivity, independence, impartiality and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and on countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁴ calls for a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, and emphasizing the importance of international cooperation in realizing the Agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;⁵

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² Resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁵ [A/76/249](#).

2. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

3. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁶ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁷ and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

5. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

6. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

7. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

8. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

9. *Stresses* the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries, and in this context highlights the role of the media in raising public awareness of issues of public interest;

10. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

11. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue taking duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of

⁶ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁷ Ibid.

international cooperation and the importance of the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, including in the context of the universal periodic review;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to present further practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on the question to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;

13. *Decides* to consider the matter at its seventy-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XI

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, including resolution 75/178 of 16 December 2020, and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/6 of 29 September 2011,¹ 33/3 of 29 September 2016,² 36/4 of 28 September 2017,³ 39/4 of 27 September 2018,⁴ 42/8 of 26 September 2019,⁵ 45/4 of 6 October 2020⁶ and 48/8 of 8 October 2021,

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights for all should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, and with full respect for, inter alia, sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights⁷ can be fully realized,

Reaffirming also the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues, including pandemics and other health-related global challenges, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

Concerned about the continued abuse by Member States of the extraterritorial application of their national legislation in a manner that affects the sovereignty of

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and A/66/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/72/53/Add.1), chap. III.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/73/53/Add.1), chap. III.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/74/53/Add.1), chap. III.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/75/53/Add.1), chap. III.

⁷ Resolution 217 A (III).

other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the full enjoyment of human rights,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights for all,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, 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 that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept, but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation at all levels,

Underlining the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Deeply concerned that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic and other factors, such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, represent a global scenario that is threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁸ and all its Goals and targets,

Reaffirming its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system, recognizing the key leadership role of the World Health Organization in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizing also that a democratic and equitable international order enhances the capacities of all countries to respond to and recover from the pandemic and other global challenges,

Recognizing the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, through global access to vaccines that are safe, of quality, efficacious, effective and affordable for all countries,

Deeply concerned about the uneven access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasizing that a multilateral approach, based on a democratic and equitable international order, enhances the capacities of all countries, in particular developing countries, to have equal access to vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the pandemic,

Recognizing that a democratic and equitable order requires the reform of international financial institutions, in order to widen and strengthen the level of participation of developing countries in the international decision-making process, and a more transparent and open financial system, as well as adequate measures against illicit financial flows, such as tax fraud, tax evasion, illegal capital flight, money-laundering and the proceeds of corruption, and for improving tax transparency worldwide,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures at the global level that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Stressing also the need for adequate financing of, technology transfer to and capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including to support their efforts to adapt to climate change,

Having listened to the peoples of the world, and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of

⁸ Resolution [70/1](#).

the Council of 18 June 2007,⁹ and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Emphasizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda for the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order,

Resolved to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;¹⁰

4. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity,¹¹ and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity and all its diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

5. *Reaffirms* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and re-emphasizes the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels;

6. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;

(d) The right of all peoples to peace;

(e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(f) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;

(g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through

⁹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹⁰ [A/HRC/48/58](#).

¹¹ See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

the implementation of the principle of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(h) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;

(i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(k) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

(l) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responds effectively to the needs for assistance of national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promotes the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;

(m) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in international economic, commercial and financial relations;

(n) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of humankind in connection to the public right of access to culture;

(o) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, including addressing pandemics and other health-related global challenges, as well as threats to international peace and security, which should be exercised multilaterally;

7. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

8. *Also stresses* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and reaffirms that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

9. *Reaffirms*, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs;

10. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, social justice, equality and equity, human dignity, solidarity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

11. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

12. *Underlines* that attempts to overthrow legitimate Governments by force disrupt the democratic and constitutional order, the legitimate exercise of power and the full enjoyment of human rights, and reaffirms that every State has an inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system, without interference in any form by other States;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working urgently for the establishment of a new international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations, in accordance with relevant previous General Assembly resolutions, programmes of action and major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related areas;

14. *Also reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights for all and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

15. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support international cooperation and multilateral efforts, under the leadership of the United Nations system and in particular the World Health Organization, and to work with all relevant actors to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies that contributes to a more democratic and equitable international order;

17. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order, as prescribed in the Charter of the United Nations, cannot be achieved only through the deregulation of trade, markets and financial services;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Independent Expert;

19. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to consider responding favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

20. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special mechanisms extended by the Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

23. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and on the role of a democratic and equitable international order in contributing to the equal access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective and affordable vaccines against COVID-19;

24. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its seventy-seventh session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

Draft resolution XII

The right to food

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming also previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition,² the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³ in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ in particular the Sustainable Development Goals on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere,

Recognizing that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can help to ensure the end of hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security,

Recalling the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁵ in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Bearing in mind the importance of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,⁶

Reaffirming the importance of the recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,⁷

Acknowledging that the right to food has been recognized as the right of every individual, alone or in community with others, to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, adequate, nutritious food, in conformity with, inter alia, the culture, beliefs, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals, that is produced and consumed sustainably, thereby preserving access to food for future generations,

Reaffirming the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,⁸

Recalling the proclamation by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the close

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5–16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

³ Resolution [55/2](#).

⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁵ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁶ [A/57/499](#), annex.

⁷ [E/CN.4/2005/131](#), annex.

⁸ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

links between family farming, the promotion and conservation of historical, cultural and natural heritage, traditional customs and culture, halting the loss of biodiversity and the improvement of the living conditions of people living in rural areas,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming also that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food security, improved nutrition and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the Declaration of the World Food Summit and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,⁹ that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that endanger food and nutrition security,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, aimed at ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action, as well as in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,¹⁰ and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food and nutrition security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Recognizing that, despite the efforts made and the fact that some positive results have been achieved, the problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition have a global dimension, that there has not been sufficient progress in reducing hunger and that these problems are increasing dramatically in some regions in the absence of urgent, determined and concerted action,

Recognizing also the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, as well as access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including efficient irrigation, the reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage for indigenous peoples and others living in rural areas,

Recognizing further the complex character of food insecurity and its likely recurrence due to a combination of several major factors, such as the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, drought, volatility in commodity prices and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, including the least developed

⁹ World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

¹⁰ Ibid., annex II.

countries and small island developing States, and the need for coherence and collaboration between international institutions at the global level,

Noting with great concern that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting also that poverty, armed conflicts, drought and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, to respond, prevent and prepare for increasing global food insecurity are urgently needed,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and all its Goals and targets,

Recognizing also that the poorest and those who may be vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and the fulfilment of the right to food for all, and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,

Recognizing further that the COVID-19 global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

Stressing the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and calling upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition,

Reaffirming that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited under international humanitarian law and that it is therefore prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works,

Resolved to act to ensure that the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and the human rights perspective are taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the realization of the right to food,

Stressing the possible benefits of international trade to improve food and nutrition availability,

Stressing also that improving access to productive resources and investment in rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, through, inter alia, the promotion of investments in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and tackle water scarcity, as well as in programmes, practices and policies to scale up sustainable agroecological practices,

Recognizing the importance of sustainable food systems that are fit to meet environmental, economic and social challenges, in order to guarantee food security and nutrition for all,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

Concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters are harming agricultural productivity, food production and cropping patterns, thus contributing to food availability shortfalls, and that such impacts are expected to increase with future climate change,

Expressing its deep concern over the negative effects of armed conflicts on the enjoyment of the right to food,

Emphasizing that a multisectoral approach that integrates nutrition across all sectors, including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, social protection and education, as well as a gender perspective, is critical to achieving global food security and improved nutrition and the realization of the right to food,

Recalling the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security¹¹ by the Committee on World Food Security at its thirty-eighth session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

Recalling also the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,¹² which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security at its forty-first session, held from 13 to 18 October 2014,

Stressing the importance of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, hosted by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, and of its outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,

Stressing also the need to increase official development assistance devoted to sustainable agriculture and nutrition,

Recognizing that small and medium-sized farmers in developing countries need to receive technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support,

Recognizing also the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and nutrition and the right to food for all,

Noting the cultural values of dietary and eating habits in different cultures, and recognizing that food plays an important role in defining the identity of individuals and communities and is a cultural component that describes and gives value to a territory and its inhabitants,

Recognizing the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the full realization of

¹¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

¹² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

Recognizing also the role of the Committee on World Food Security as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General and held on 23 and 24 September 2021, and looking forward to the upcoming Nutrition for Growth Summit, to be held in Tokyo on 7 and 8 December 2021,

Acknowledging the contribution of parliamentarians nationally and regionally to the reduction of hunger and malnutrition and ultimately to the realization of the right to food, and in this regard recognizing the convening of the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Madrid on 29 and 30 October 2018,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and recalling the commitment therein to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

Recalling also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹³ and its guiding principles, which, inter alia, recognize the importance of promoting regular disaster preparedness and response and recovery exercises, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs, as well as of fostering collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change adaptation, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate,

Recalling further the proclamation at its seventieth session of 2016–2025 as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, and stressing the opportunity the Decade represents to bring together initiatives and efforts to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition,

Acknowledging the work done by the High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient, nutritious and sustainably produced food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

¹³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

3. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects created by the world food crisis still continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of the crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially the least developed countries;

4. *Expresses particular concern* at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fulfilment of all human rights for all, including the right to food, underlines that the pandemic is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider the fulfilment of the right to food as part of the response to and recovery from the pandemic by, inter alia, keeping food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensuring the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimizing food loss and waste, supporting workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilizing and allocating adequate resources and enhancing institutional and training capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, providing continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and providing adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2021: Transforming Food Systems for Food Security, Improved Nutrition and Affordable Healthy Diets for All*, the number of hungry people in the world is growing, the vast majority of hungry people live in developing countries and over 2 billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity;

6. *Considers it alarming* that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in 2020, the number of people who did not have access to adequate food rose by 320 million, to 2.4 billion, amounting to nearly a third of the world's population, and that between 720 million and 811 million people faced hunger in 2020;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they also account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases, and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

8. *Encourages* all States to mainstream a gender perspective in food security programmes and to take action to address de jure and de facto gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular when they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership and agricultural inputs, as well as full and equal access to health care, education, science and technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families, and in this regard stresses the need to empower women and strengthen their role in decision-making;

9. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue to mainstream a gender perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United

Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity and malnutrition to continue to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

10. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

11. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility of States is to promote and protect the right to food and that the international community should provide, through a coordinated response and upon request, international cooperation in support of national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to food, including through agricultural development assistance, the transfer of technology, food crop rehabilitation assistance and food aid, ensuring food security, with special attention to the specific needs of women and girls, and promoting innovation, support for agricultural training and the development of adapted technologies, research on rural advisory services and support for access to financing services, and ensure support for the establishment of secure land tenure systems;

12. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and in children, and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

13. *Also calls upon* all States and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations to implement policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity, as a result of malnutrition, of children under 5 years of age, and in this regard urges States to disseminate the technical guidance prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in collaboration with the World Health Organization,¹⁴ and to apply it, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of laws, policies, programmes, budgets and mechanisms for remedy and redress aimed at eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age;

14. *Encourages* all States to take steps, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

15. *Recognizes* the advances made through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

16. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and responsible public investment in rural development, taking into consideration the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investment, including private investment, in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and to tackle water scarcity;

¹⁴ [A/HRC/27/31](#); see also Human Rights Council resolution [33/11](#) (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II).

17. *Recognizes* the critical contribution made by the fisheries sector to the realization of the right to food and to food security and the contribution of small-scale fishers to the local food security of coastal communities;

18. *Also recognizes* that 70 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas, where nearly half a billion family farmers are located, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access for their products to national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

19. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;¹⁵

20. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁶ and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹⁷ as a matter of priority;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of indigenous peoples and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems, as well as the important role of new technologies, in the conservation of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

22. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹⁸ acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face in achieving the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

23. *Also recalls* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,¹⁹ and the commitment to developing, in conjunction with the indigenous peoples concerned and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support indigenous peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition;

24. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts, such as "food sovereignty", and their relation to food security and the right to food, bearing in mind

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2400, No. 43345.

¹⁸ Resolution 61/295, annex.

¹⁹ Resolution 69/2.

the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

25. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations, within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all;

26. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment, as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting their enjoyment of the right to food;

27. *Takes note with appreciation* of the growing movement, in different regions of the world, towards the adoption of framework laws, national strategies and measures in support of the full realization of the right to food for all;

28. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

29. *Calls for* a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to food;

30. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

31. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as non-communicable diseases;

32. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and once again invites all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the funding necessary to realize the right to food, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, and to achieve the aims of Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other food and nutrition-related targets;

33. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, alongside the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

34. *Urges* States to give priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

35. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution to the sustainable expansion and improvement of agriculture and, in particular, its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs, and to the

provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

36. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies, including on the right to food, that contributes to the full realization of this right for all and leaves no one behind;

37. *Stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security;

38. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across different regions, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions;

39. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

40. *Calls upon* States to heed the urgent United Nations humanitarian appeal to assist countries facing drought, starvation and famine with emergency aid and urgent funding;

41. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on its realization;

42. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur,²⁰ which is focused on food systems;

43. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the adverse impacts of climate change and to the full realization of the right to food, recalls the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015,²¹ and also recalls the holding of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016;

44. *Also recognizes* the impacts of climate change and of the El Niño phenomenon on agricultural production and food security around the world and the importance of designing and implementing actions to reduce its effects, in particular

²⁰ A/76/237.

²¹ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

on vulnerable populations, such as rural women, bearing in mind the role that they play in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being;

45. *Reiterates its support* for the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for its effective fulfilment;

46. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),²² in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person, indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

47. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the Committee on World Food Security in order to contribute to achieving and guaranteeing global food security;

48. *Recalls* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant),²³ in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

49. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004, represent a useful tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals and to support national Governments in the implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks;

50. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

51. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food that are within his mandate, in particular in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on food security and nutrition;

52. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the

²² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/2000/22 and E/2000/22/Corr.1), annex V.

²³ Ibid., 2003, *Supplement No. 2* (E/2003/22), annex IV.

fulfilment of his mandate through, inter alia, the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

53. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-seventh session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

Draft resolution XIII

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling that internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border,¹

Deeply disturbed by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, for reasons including violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, armed conflict, persecution, violence and other reasons, including terrorism, as well as natural and human-made disasters, who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenges that this is creating for host communities, national and local authorities and the international community,

Recalling the very large number of people who are displaced within national borders and the potential for such persons to seek protection and assistance in other countries as refugees or migrants, and noting the need for reflection on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons in this regard, including the need for comprehensive and disaggregated data and other measures aimed at preventing and reducing such displacements,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, other relevant General Assembly and Economic and Social Council resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Council, reaffirming also the principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence in the provision of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirming further the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect these principles,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, without discrimination, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem and to support all durable solutions in appropriate cooperation with those displaced, their hosts, civil society, local authorities, development actors, the private sector and the international community,

Expressing particular concern at the increased level of discrimination experienced by internally displaced persons, including those who may be in particularly vulnerable situations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, and emphasizing the need to ensure that their specific needs are met through the provision of adequate protection and access to assistance,

Noting the need to address the root causes of displacement and for increased awareness within the international community of the issue of internal displacement worldwide, including the situation of millions living in protracted situations of displacement, many of them outside camp settings and in urban areas, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons,

¹ See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement ([E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2](#), annex), introduction, para. 2.

Recognizing that violations of international humanitarian law can cause displacement, and recalling that displacement could be reduced if international humanitarian law was respected by all parties to armed conflict, in particular the fundamental principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, as well as the prohibition of forced displacement of the civilian population, unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand,²

Expressing deep concern at the threat posed by landmines, explosive remnants of war and improvised explosive devices to internally displaced persons fleeing conflict, impeding, in certain instances, their voluntary return, local integration and resettlement and the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, and noting the urgency of providing protection from landmines and other explosive remnants of war and supporting host communities and local organizations,

Expressing particular concern that many internally displaced children, in particular girls, lack access to education in all phases of displacement owing to attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, insecurity, the prevalence of violence, including gender-based violence, in and around schools, loss of documentation, language barriers and discrimination,

Expressing particular concern also that many internally displaced persons, including women, men, girls and boys, do not receive the health care they require in all phases of displacement, including mental health care and psychosocial support,

Recognizing the increase in the number, scale and frequency of disasters, including those related to the adverse effects of climate change, which in certain instances may contribute to displacement and additional pressure on host communities, encouraging the United Nations and all relevant actors to strengthen efforts in cooperation with national Governments aimed at addressing the needs of persons displaced internally by natural disasters, including those exacerbated by climate change, and noting in this regard the importance of sharing best practices to prevent and prepare for such displacements,

Expressing concern that many millions of people are displaced each year by sudden- and slow-onset disasters, recognizing that building resilience of nations and communities, including through preparedness, prevention, disaster risk reduction and climate-change adaptation measures can reduce disaster displacement risk, including through integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national, regional and global development policies and programmes, and in this regard recognizing also the important role of sustainable development in averting and reducing the risk of loss and damage,

Recognizing that the vulnerability of internally displaced persons may increase when their host communities are affected by disasters,

Expressing gravest concerns about the humanitarian impact of and risks posed by the short- and long-term impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the already significant levels of humanitarian and development needs and suffering of internally displaced persons and host communities, recognizing the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on displaced women, children and people in vulnerable situations, and profoundly concerned by rising humanitarian assistance and protection needs including due to the increase in violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against displaced children, and the significant impact on education, especially for girls, as well as high

² Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II) (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1125, No. 17513), arts. 13 and 17.

levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and rising risks of famine, loss of livelihoods, and all the negative impacts on health, including mental health, which are also exacerbated by weakened health systems, and the impacts and risks for displacement; and recognizing the compounded risks and impacts due to armed conflict, poverty, natural disasters, violence, the adverse effects of climate change, and other environmental challenges; and further recognizing the efforts and measures proposed by the Secretary-General concerning the response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

Conscious of the human rights, humanitarian and development dimensions, as well as the possible peacebuilding and transitional justice dimensions, of internal displacement, including in protracted and repeated temporary displacement situations, and the responsibilities of States, with the support of the international community, to ensure the provision of protection and assistance, including by respecting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all internally displaced persons, with a view to finding durable solutions,

Recognizing the important contributions made by national and local authorities and host communities to protect and assist internally displaced persons, acknowledging that the hosting of large groups of internally displaced persons can put pressure on those authorities and communities, and recognizing also the importance of adequately supporting host communities, as well as local capacities, by addressing their needs,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,³ regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement, and recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [74/160](#) of 18 December 2019 and Human Rights Council resolution [41/15](#) of 11 July 2019,⁴

Recognizing that internally displaced persons are to enjoy, in full equality and without discrimination, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country, including the right to freedom of movement and residence, and should be protected against arbitrary displacement,

Recalling the relevant norms of international law, which includes international human rights law, inter alia, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ as well as international refugee law and international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949⁶ and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,⁷ as applicable, as a vital legal framework for the protection of and assistance to civilians in armed conflict and under foreign occupation, including internally displaced persons,

Recognizing that internally displaced persons, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, without identity documents, may be at risk of human rights violations and abuses, and may face difficulties in the realization of their rights and in accessing services,

³ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

Recognizing also that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,⁸

Welcoming the increasing dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

Noting with appreciation the important role of national human rights institutions, during all phases of displacement, in ensuring that all human rights issues of internally displaced persons are appropriately addressed,

Deploing practices of forced displacement and their negative consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by large groups of populations, and recalling the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court⁹ that define the deportation or forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity and the unlawful deportation, transfer or ordering of the displacement of the civilian population as war crimes,

Recognizing the importance of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention),¹⁰ which builds on the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons, adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, and which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa, and welcoming the holding of the first Conference of States Parties to the Convention in April 2017,

Noting the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,¹¹ and taking note of the decision of the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of 4 October 2011 endorsing the preliminary framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict,

Underlining the necessity of safe and unhindered humanitarian access for the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations to internally displaced persons, including those residing in conflict areas, in accordance with international law,

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹² seeks to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons, and that addressing the needs of internally displaced persons can help countries to achieve their overall development goals,

Noting the increasing number of internally displaced persons outside camps and in urban areas and the need to meet their immediate and their long-term needs, and the needs of host families, and recognizing the importance of the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III),¹³

Taking note of the first World Humanitarian Summit, held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 23 and 24 May 2016, and taking note also of the report of the Secretary-General

⁸ E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 3014, No. 52375.

¹¹ A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.

¹² Resolution 70/1.

¹³ Resolution 71/256, annex.

on the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit,¹⁴ which contains, inter alia, recommendations to strengthen partnerships between Member States and humanitarian and development actors to address the urgent and long-term needs of internally displaced persons,

Noting the need for finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons in their countries and addressing possible obstacles in this regard, and recognizing that durable solutions include voluntary and sustainable return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

Emphasizing that all durable solutions for internally displaced persons should be approached from a humanitarian and development perspective, involving the timely engagement of internally displaced persons and host communities,

Mindful of the significant humanitarian and development assistance required to meet the needs of people in protracted situations of internal displacement and of the large gap between needs and resources,

Recognizing the need for increased coverage, quality and availability of information on internal displacement and to collect reliable, timely, longitudinal and disaggregated data, including data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location, on internally displaced persons and the impact of new and protracted displacement on host communities in order to improve policy and programming, preventive measures on and response to internal displacement and to promote the achievement of durable solutions, including, in this respect, the relevance of the Global Internal Displacement Database maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical support available from the inter-agency Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service and the Expert Group on Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Statistics, and noting the adoption by the Statistical Commission of International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics,

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have supported and facilitated the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and of her predecessors, the former representatives of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and have helped, according to their roles and responsibilities, to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur and national Governments and the relevant offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as with other international and regional organizations, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better strategies for, protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the important and independent contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in cooperation with national Governments and relevant international bodies,

Welcoming the priorities set by the Special Rapporteur as contained in the report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session¹⁵ and the two strategic objectives of supporting Governments in developing national instruments and institutions on internal displacement and facilitating viable, durable solutions for

¹⁴ [A/71/353](#).

¹⁵ [A/HRC/35/27](#).

internally displaced persons, including through the engagement of development actors,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the main report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of internally displaced persons¹⁶ and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far, for the catalytic role that she plays in raising the level of awareness about the plight of internally displaced persons and for her ongoing efforts to address their development and other specific needs, including through the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue her analysis of the reasons for internal displacement and to remain apprised of the needs and human rights of those who are displaced, including the needs of those who may be in particularly vulnerable situations, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, the level of emergency preparedness and ways to strengthen protection and assistance, including by enhancing the role of national human rights institutions, where appropriate, and the protection of internally displaced persons, as well as durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including by addressing possible obstacles to the exercise of housing, land and property rights for internally displaced persons, also encourages the Special Rapporteur, with regard to the latter, to use, in her activities, the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and further encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to advocate the needs of host communities and promote comprehensive strategies, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

4. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe, to address the protection, assistance and development needs of internally displaced persons and to find durable solutions for them, and encourages regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Special Rapporteur;

5. *Urges* all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the Special Rapporteur, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, and to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur to enable her to continue and enhance dialogue with Governments in addressing situations of internal displacement, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

6. *Invites* Governments to give serious consideration, in dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, to the recommendations and suggestions addressed to them, in accordance with her mandate, and to inform her of measures taken thereon;

7. *Welcomes* the use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by the Special Rapporteur in her dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests her to continue her efforts to further their dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of domestic legislation and policies;

¹⁶ A/HRC/47/37.

8. *Recognizes* that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for their internally displaced persons, as well as to respect, protect and fulfil their human rights, thus contributing to their national, economic and social development processes, and encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the Special Rapporteur, relevant international and regional organizations and donor countries to continue to support international, regional and national efforts to meet the needs and fulfil the human rights of internally displaced persons, including children, on the basis of solidarity, the principles of international cooperation and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and to ensure that humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development assistance efforts are appropriately funded;

9. *Requests* Member States to strengthen their efforts to ensure the protection of and better assistance to internally displaced persons, in particular to address the challenges of protracted displacement, by adopting and implementing gender-sensitive policies and strategies, in accordance with national and regional frameworks, while recognizing the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, encourages all relevant actors, in accordance with their mandates, to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement, and in this regard recognizes the central role of national and local authorities and institutions in addressing the specific needs of internally displaced persons and in finding solutions to displacement through, inter alia, continued and enhanced international support, upon request, for the capacity-building of States;

10. *Encourages* States to ensure that internally displaced persons, including children, have access to a process to obtain appropriate identification documents;

11. *Notes* the implementation of the multi-stakeholder Plan of Action for Advancing Prevention, Protection and Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons 2018–2020 (GP20) to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and its follow-up initiative, (GP2.0);

12. *Notes with appreciation* the report of the Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Internal Displacement, acknowledges that increased efforts on addressing the root causes as well as prevention, protection and improved assistance to internally displaced persons and durable solutions for internal displacement are critically important, and encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States, the United Nations system and relevant actors, as appropriate, on these efforts;

13. *Expresses its appreciation* for the fact that an increasing number of States have adopted domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement, encourages States to continue to do so in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way, consistent with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, urges States to increase their efforts to implement such domestic laws and policies, including through the identification of national focal points within Governments for issues of internal displacement, in particular for setting national targets and indicators for policy and programmes and for the allocation of budget resources, and encourages the international community and national actors to provide financial support and cooperation to Governments, upon request, in this regard;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons and to facilitate the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in this regard by allowing and facilitating safe and unhindered access for humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment to internally displaced persons, in accordance with international law, by maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for internally displaced persons,

where they exist, and by taking the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel so that they may efficiently perform their task of assisting internally displaced persons;

15. *Expresses particular concern* about the full range of threats, violations and abuses of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law experienced by many internally displaced persons, including women and children, who are particularly vulnerable or specifically targeted especially for sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in persons in all its forms,¹⁷ forced recruitment and abduction, encourages the continued commitment of the Special Rapporteur to promote action to address their particular assistance and protection needs, and calls upon States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons who are victims of the above-mentioned threats, violations and abuses, as well as other groups of internally displaced persons with special needs, such as severely traumatized individuals, older persons and persons with disabilities, taking into account all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

16. *Encourages* the international community to provide technical cooperation to States affected by displacement, upon their request, including for the training of staff members of institutions in charge of registration and development of national laws and policies on internal displacement and issues related to land and property restitution and compensation;

17. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in the coordination of the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the inter-agency cluster system, welcomes continued initiatives to ensure better protection, assistance and development strategies for internally displaced persons, as well as better coordination of activities regarding them, and emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of national and local authorities, host communities, local organizations, United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenges of internal displacement;

18. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to the issue of internally displaced persons in humanitarian response plans, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

19. *Emphasizes* the importance of communication and consultation with internally displaced persons and host communities by Governments and other relevant actors, in accordance with their specific mandates, during all phases of displacement, as well as the participation of internally displaced persons, where appropriate, in policies, programmes and activities pertaining to them, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

20. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to provide for and support, in particular, the full and meaningful participation of internally displaced women at all levels of decision-making processes and in all activities that have a direct impact on their lives, in all aspects of internal displacement, including the promotion and protection of human rights, the prevention of human rights violations and the design and implementation of durable solutions, peace processes, peacebuilding, transitional justice, post-conflict reconstruction and development;

¹⁷ As defined in article 3 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574).

21. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and humanitarian assistance, human rights and development organizations to enhance their collaboration and coordination through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and United Nations country teams in countries with situations of internal displacement and to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur, and requests the continued participation of the Special Rapporteur in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

22. *Encourages* the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to enhance coordination, effectiveness, efficiency and predictability in preventing, responding to and finding solutions to internal displacement;

23. *Expresses deep concern* at the insufficient funding levels of humanitarian appeals, and in this respect urges all relevant actors to provide the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations with sufficient and predictable resources to ensure adequate support for those who are forcibly displaced;

24. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law, and international human rights law, as applicable, with a view to preventing forced displacement and promoting the protection of civilians, and calls upon Governments to take measures to respect and protect the human rights of all internally displaced persons, without distinction of any kind, in accordance with their applicable obligations under international law;

25. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with all other relevant actors, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, to ensure the right to a quality education, including primary and secondary education, for internally displaced children, without discrimination of any kind, as well as to support existing schools to enable them to include internally displaced persons, calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools and other educational institutions and to refrain from undertaking actions that could adversely affect the protection of these buildings against direct attacks, and strongly condemns all attacks, as well as threats of attack, against schools, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

26. *Recognizes* that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics is an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind;

27. *Highlights* the need for States, with the support of relevant partners, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, as appropriate, to address the physical and mental health needs of internally displaced persons, which may include assistance, health care and psychosocial and other counselling services;

28. *Stresses* the obligation, in accordance with international humanitarian law and national laws and regulations, as applicable, to respect and protect medical personnel, as well as humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, in all circumstances, in this regard notes the role of domestic legal frameworks and other appropriate measures in promoting the safety and protection of such personnel, urges States and all parties to armed conflict to develop and integrate effective measures to prevent and address violence against such personnel, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other medical facilities, and strongly urges States to conduct full, prompt, impartial and effective investigations within their jurisdiction of violations of international humanitarian law related to the protection of the wounded and sick, including internally displaced persons, medical personnel and humanitarian personnel exclusively engaged in medical duties, their means of transport and equipment, as well as hospitals and other

medical facilities in armed conflict, and, where appropriate, to take action against those responsible in accordance with domestic and international law, with a view to reinforcing preventive measures, ensuring accountability and addressing the grievances of victims, including internally displaced persons;

29. *Recognizes* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, among other factors, contribute to human displacement, and in this regard notes the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in March 2015,¹⁸ the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in December 2015¹⁹ and relevant initiatives related to internal displacement, such as the Nansen Initiative, and their follow-up processes, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent and prepare for displacement or to provide assistance through well-planned recovery programmes that support internally displaced persons and their hosts and provide protection to those who are forced to flee;

30. *Affirms* the need for the effective implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 to integrate, as appropriate, post-disaster reconstruction and recovery, including the principle of “build back better”, into the economic and social sustainable development of affected areas, as well as temporary settlements where displaced persons live, to promote periodic disaster preparedness and response exercises in recovery and resettlement efforts, with a view to ensuring a rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, and to promote transboundary cooperation to build resilience and reduce disaster risk, including displacement risk, including by establishing or improving early warning systems, including heatwave early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems and supported by public awareness campaigns, recognizing that early action following quality forecasts can reduce the impact of extreme weather events;

31. *Recognizes* that internal displacement is not only a humanitarian but also a development challenge, and in some cases can also be a peacebuilding challenge, and calls upon States to provide durable solutions and address possible obstacles in this regard and to include the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of internally displaced persons and host communities in their national development plans;

32. *Encourages* closer cooperation between development and humanitarian actors, in accordance with their respective mandates, towards collective results over multiple years, with the aim of reducing the needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons, in support of national priorities, while fully respecting the importance of humanitarian principles for humanitarian action;

33. *Also encourages* strengthened international cooperation, in particular between humanitarian and development actors, including through the provision of resources, coherent multi-year planning that addresses protracted displacement and expertise to assist affected countries, in particular developing countries, in their national efforts and policies related to assistance, protection, resilience-building and rehabilitation for internally displaced persons and host communities, as appropriate, and the integration of the human rights and needs of internally displaced persons into both rural and urban development strategies, as well as the participation of both

¹⁸ Resolution 69/283, annex II.

¹⁹ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

internally displaced persons and host communities in the design and implementation of those strategies;

34. *Calls upon* the United Nations to work closely with Member States and other relevant actors, including local governments, civil society and the private sector, in furtherance of the New Urban Agenda in order to promote more effective emergency preparedness and response in urban areas, and notes the importance of addressing, as appropriate, the particular needs and vulnerabilities of internally displaced persons in urban settings and of supporting host cities, in the spirit of international cooperation, including by ensuring equal access to income-earning opportunities and preventing arbitrary forced evictions;

35. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian agencies, donors, development actors and other providers of development assistance to continue to work together, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, including long-term development assistance for the implementation of durable solutions, with a view to reducing internal displacement;

36. *Encourages* Governments, United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to promote an inclusive approach to durable solutions that addresses the needs of internally displaced persons and their host communities, including the promotion of opportunities to fully harness the human potential of the displaced populations by promoting self-sufficiency through income-generating activities and sustainable livelihood opportunities;

37. *Urges* all countries to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into their respective national policies and development frameworks, as appropriate, and recalls that the 2030 Agenda seeks to address the needs of the most vulnerable, including internally displaced persons;

38. *Notes* the importance of taking the human rights and the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons into consideration, when appropriate, in peace processes, and emphasizes that durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through voluntary return, sustainable reintegration, rehabilitation and reconciliation processes and their active participation, as appropriate, in the peace process are necessary elements of effective peacebuilding;

39. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard, and continues to urge the Commission to intensify its efforts, within its mandate, in cooperation with national and transitional Governments and in consultation with the relevant United Nations entities, to incorporate the rights and the specific needs of internally displaced persons, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as related land and property issues, when advising on or proposing country-specific peacebuilding strategies for post-conflict situations in cases under consideration;

40. *Recalls* the dedication by the African Union of 2019 to, inter alia, mark the tenth anniversary of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), welcomes progress in the number of African States having signed and ratified the Convention, encourages further progress in this regard, and encourages other regional mechanisms to develop their own regional normative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons;

41. *Encourages* Member States, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams to contribute to the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations, with the cooperation of the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre and the technical

support and assistance of the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, and to provide financial resources, as appropriate, in these respects, and encourages States to take into account the International Recommendations on Internally Displaced Persons Statistics through their national statistics offices, where applicable;

42. *Recalls* the need to reflect on effective strategies to ensure adequate protection and assistance for internally displaced persons and to prevent and reduce such displacement, and in this regard encourages the Secretary-General to work with Member States and the United Nations system to explore ways to better address the long-term needs of internally displaced persons, support communities that host them and improve the lives of the many millions of internally displaced persons;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur, from within existing resources, with all assistance necessary to strengthen and carry out her mandate effectively, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration and all other relevant United Nations offices and agencies and related organizations, to continue to support and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur;

44. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to seek the contributions of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to create a more stable basis for her work;

45. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh and seventy-eighth sessions a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

46. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons at its seventy-eighth session.

Draft resolution XIV

Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [47/135](#) of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities annexed to that resolution, and bearing in mind article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹ as well as other relevant existing international and regional standards and national legislation,

Welcoming the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration in 2022, and recognizing that, while progress has been made, the situation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities is critical in many parts of the world and many challenges remain to ensure the full enjoyment of their rights, and that in this regard the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration is an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to take measures for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Recalling its subsequent resolutions on the effective promotion of the Declaration and all relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution [43/8](#) of 19 June 2020,² in which the Council considered the recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues at its twelfth session, held in November 2019, addressing education, language and the human rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,³

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and dialogue between these minorities and the rest of society, as well as the constructive and inclusive development of practices and institutional arrangements to accommodate diversity within societies, contribute to political and social stability and the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts involving the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ of which the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development⁵ is an integral part, recalling that the Sustainable Development Goals and targets seek to realize the human rights of all, and stressing the need for Member States to integrate the 2030 Agenda into their respective national policies and development frameworks, as appropriate, to promote the effective implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Expressing concern at the frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts involving persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and that such persons often suffer disproportionately from the effects of conflicts resulting in the violation of their

¹ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

³ See [A/HRC/43/62](#).

⁴ Resolution [70/1](#).

⁵ Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

human rights and are particularly vulnerable to forced displacement through, inter alia, population transfers, revocation of previously held identity documents, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Emphasizing the need for reinforced efforts to realize the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by addressing economic and social conditions and marginalization, as well as to end any type of discrimination against them, including by addressing multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination,

Recognizing that a vast majority of stateless persons are persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and in this regard emphasizing the need for birth registration, civil registration and national identification documents to be provided without discrimination on any grounds, in particular race, ethnicity, religion and language, in line with the 2030 Agenda, especially the target aimed at providing a legal identity for all,

Emphasizing further the fundamental importance of human rights education, training and learning as well as of dialogue, including intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and interaction among all relevant stakeholders and members of society on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Recognizing the importance of realizing the right to education for all and, wherever possible, providing persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with adequate opportunities to learn their own language or to have instruction in their own language,

Emphasizing the important role that national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and acknowledging the role that the United Nations, its specialized agencies and other relevant organizations, and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on minority issues, play in this regard by, inter alia, promoting the implementation of the Declaration,

Expressing concern about the spread of disinformation and misinformation, particularly on social media platforms, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to spread racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, to violate and abuse human rights, including the right to privacy, to impede freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and to incite all forms of violence, hatred, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists, civil society and academia in countering this trend,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,⁶ and draws attention to the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,⁷ including the provisions on forms of multiple discrimination;

2. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, including through the encouragement of

⁶ Resolution 47/135, annex.

⁷ See A/CONF.189/12 and A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1, chap. I.

conditions for the promotion of their identity, the provision of adequate education and the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country, without discrimination, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so;

3. *Encourages* States to take appropriate measures so that, wherever possible, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may have adequate opportunities to learn their own language or to have instruction in their own language;

4. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, inter alia, constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures, for the promotion and implementation of the Declaration, and appeals to States to cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally, in particular on the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, consistent with the Declaration, in order to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

5. *Recommends* that States continue to reflect on current and emerging challenges facing persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including the rise in persecution on religious and ethnic grounds, the prevalence of statelessness among national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, human rights violations in law enforcement and the justice sector and increasing levels of hate crimes and hate speech targeting, among others, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

6. *Also recommends* that States ensure that all measures taken with a view to implementing the Declaration are, to the fullest extent possible, developed, designed, implemented and reviewed with the full, effective and equal participation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

7. *Calls upon* States to undertake effective efforts to prevent and combat acts of violence specifically targeting persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

8. *Also calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection of children who belong to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in accordance with the relevant obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child;⁸

9. *Further calls upon* States to take all appropriate measures to ensure the protection and promote the empowerment of all women and girls who belong to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and are exposed to all forms of discrimination as well as sexual and gender-based violence, and also to give special attention to the specific needs of older persons and persons with disabilities who belong to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

10. *Recommends* that States and other relevant actors ensure to the fullest extent possible that the Declaration is translated into all minority languages and disseminated widely;

11. *Expresses its appreciation* for the successful completion, in November 2020, of the thirteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues, on the theme “Hate speech, social media and minorities”, which, through the wide participation of stakeholders, provided an important platform for the promotion of dialogue on this topic and, as part of its outcome, produced recommendations to highlight the need for States to comply with their human rights obligations in relation to addressing hate

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

speech on social media,⁹ and encourages States to take into consideration the relevant recommendations of the Forum;

12. *Calls upon* States, while bearing in mind the theme of the thirteenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues and with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Declaration and ensuring the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, to take appropriate measures by, inter alia:

(a) Reviewing any legislation, policy or practice that has a discriminatory or disproportionately negative effect, both offline and in digital contexts, on persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, with a view to considering its amendment;

(b) Considering ratifying, acceding to and adhering to all relevant international instruments that protect and promote the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with the aim of addressing and countering the spread of racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization;

(c) Strongly condemning any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and adopting and implementing measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on nationality, race, religion or belief, both online and offline, while respecting all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(d) Ensuring that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities have access to justice and remedy for human rights violations, abuses and/or crimes, including crimes committed on the basis of national, racial or religious hatred;

(e) Strengthening international cooperation, including with international and regional organizations, and cooperation with the private sector, including technology companies, national human rights institutions and civil society in order to share expertise, knowledge and effective practices in addressing and countering hate speech against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, while respecting and promoting human rights, including in the development and use of digital technologies;

13. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration¹⁰ and the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on minority issues and the special focus on persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, their equal participation, social and economic development and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹¹

14. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the work that has been done and the important role played in raising the level of awareness of and in giving added visibility to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

15. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated to him, to provide him with all the necessary information requested and to seriously consider responding promptly and favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries in order to enable him to fulfil his duties effectively;

⁹ See [A/HRC/46/58](#).

¹⁰ [A/76/255](#).

¹¹ [A/75/211](#) and [A/76/162](#).

16. *Encourages* the specialized agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to develop regular dialogue and cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, as well as to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

17. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to promote, within her mandate, the implementation of the Declaration, and to engage in a dialogue with Governments for that purpose and regularly update and disseminate widely the United Nations Guide for Minorities;

18. *Welcomes* the inter-agency cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on minority issues, notes the activities of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, and urges United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to further increase their coordination and cooperation by, inter alia, developing policies on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, drawing also on relevant outcomes of the Forum on Minority Issues and taking into account the work of relevant regional organizations, in particular in the light of the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

19. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including in the context of efforts to address and counter hate speech while fully respecting the right to freedom of expression, to assist in resolving existing or potential situations involving minorities;

20. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, as well as special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations and rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and in this regard to take into consideration relevant recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues;

21. *Invites* the United Nations mechanisms and bodies, the specialized agencies and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the protection and the prevention of violations of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by strengthening cooperation in respect of information gathering and improving the information flow between themselves and with States;

22. *Encourages* regional intergovernmental bodies, within their respective regions, to promote greater attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, actively raising awareness of and promoting the Declaration in their work, encouraging its implementation at the national level and considering the creation of thematic and/or special mechanisms on this issue;

23. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to pay due attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by monitoring situations of potential threats for persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and by investigating and reporting, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)¹² and their respective mandates, episodes of targeted violence against persons belonging to minorities, including, when necessary, to regional and international bodies;

¹² Resolution 48/134, annex.

24. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote awareness of the Declaration, in particular in the light of the upcoming thirtieth anniversary of its adoption, and to review the extent to which it integrates the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the Declaration into its work, as well as to inform persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities about their rights;

25. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report annually to the General Assembly and include recommendations for effective strategies for the better implementation of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

26. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations entities and Member States to support and collaborate in the organization of regional forums on minority issues initiated by the Special Rapporteur in accordance with his mandate, in order to complement and enrich the work and recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues;

27. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to convene a high-level meeting to mark the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, on the second day of the general debate of the seventy-seventh session, consisting of an opening meeting to hear statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and a closing meeting, as well as a general debate, and also requests the President of the General Assembly to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, in consultation with Member States, and to prepare a summary of the discussions;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on activities undertaken by Member States, the Office of the High Commissioner, the Special Rapporteur, relevant United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the implementation of the Declaration and to ensure the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, with a special focus on the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration in 2022;

29. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its seventy-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XV Terrorism and human rights

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights³ and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning human rights and terrorism, the most recent of which are Assembly resolutions 72/180 of 19 December 2017, 72/246 of 24 December 2017, 73/174 of 17 December 2018 and 74/147 of 18 December 2019, and Human Rights Council resolutions 34/8 of 23 March 2017,⁴ 35/34 of 23 June 2017,⁵ 37/27 of 23 March 2018,⁶ 40/16 of 22 March 2019⁷, 42/18 of 26 September 2019⁸ and 45/11 of 6 October 2020,⁹

Emphasizing that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the fundamental importance of respecting the rule of law,

Reaffirming also its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, and of the financial, material or political support of terrorism as unjustifiable in accordance with applicable international law,

Renewing its unwavering commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, while stressing that terrorism can only be defeated by a sustained and comprehensive approach involving the active participation and collaboration of all States and international and regional organizations,

Reaffirming the primary responsibility of States to protect the population throughout their territory, and recalling in this regard that all parties to armed conflict must comply fully with obligations applicable to them under international humanitarian law related to the protection of civilians and medical personnel in armed conflict,

Recognizing that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism have a detrimental effect on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and impede the full enjoyment of political, civil, economic, social and cultural rights, and that they pose a threat to the territorial integrity and security of

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁵ Ibid., chap. V, sect. A.

⁶ Ibid., *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/73/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁷ Ibid., *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁹ Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

States, the stability of Governments, the rule of law and democracy and, ultimately, to the functioning of societies and international peace and security,

Emphasizing that terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that tolerance, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among people, including at the national, regional and global levels, while combating the escalation of hatred, are among the most important elements in the promotion of cooperation and success in preventing and combating terrorism, and welcoming the various initiatives to that end,

Reaffirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism complies with international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Reaffirming also its commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [60/288](#) of 8 September 2006, which reaffirm, inter alia, respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as being the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, and its seventh review, as taken note of in General Assembly resolution [75/291](#) of 30 June 2021,

Reaffirming further that the promotion and the protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Expressing its grave concern at the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters and at the threat it poses to all States, including countries of origin, transit and destination, and encouraging all States to address this threat by enhancing their cooperation and developing relevant measures to tackle this phenomenon, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law,

Deploring attacks on religious places and shrines and cultural sites that violate international law, in particular international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as applicable, including all deliberate destruction of relics, monuments or religious sites,

Strongly condemning the recruitment and use of children to perpetrate terrorist attacks and all violations and abuses committed by terrorist groups against children and women, including killing and maiming, abduction and rape and other forms of sexual violence, and noting that such violations and abuses may amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity,

Deeply deploring the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims and their families, and, while stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism, in particular women and children, reaffirming its profound solidarity with them and stressing the importance of providing them with proper support and assistance while respecting, inter alia, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, accountability, truth and justice, in accordance with international law,

Expressing deep concern that acts of sexual and gender-based violence are known to be part of the strategic objectives and ideology of certain terrorist groups and are used as an instrument to increase their power through supporting financing and recruitment and through the destruction of communities,

Recognizing that countering terrorism requires a comprehensive approach and a multidimensional strategy to tackle the factors underlying terrorism,

Recognizing also the difficulties faced by the international community in addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, and urging Member States and the United Nations system to take measures, pursuant to international law and while ensuring national ownership, to address all drivers of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, both internal and external, in a balanced manner,

Conscious that there are a number of drivers underlying radicalization to terrorism, and that development based on the principles of social justice, inclusion and equal opportunities can contribute to the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to the promotion of inclusive, open and resilient societies, notably through education, and affirming the determination of States to work towards conflict resolution, to confront oppression, to eradicate poverty, to promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development, global prosperity, good governance, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and the rule of law, to improve intercultural understanding and to promote respect for all,

1. *Strongly condemns* all terrorist acts as criminal and unjustifiable, and expresses grave concern at their detrimental effects on the enjoyment of all human rights;

2. *Reaffirms* that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

3. *Expresses concern* that terrorists and terrorist groups have targeted communities and individuals, as well as Governments, including on the basis of religion or belief and/or ethnicity;

4. *Stresses* the responsibility of States to protect persons in their territory against such acts, in full compliance with their obligations under international law, and in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

5. *Expresses serious concern* at the violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of international refugee law and international humanitarian law in the context of countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

6. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to respect certain rights as non-derogable under any circumstances, recalls, in regard to all other Covenant rights, that any measures derogating from the provisions of the Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, underlines the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations, and in this regard calls upon States to raise awareness about the importance of these obligations among national authorities involved in combating terrorism;

7. *Reaffirms its commitment* to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and a balanced and integrated implementation of its four pillars, as adopted in its resolution [60/288](#), and at its seventh review, and recognizes the need to redouble efforts for even attention paid to and even implementation of all the pillars of the strategy;

8. *Reaffirms its profound solidarity* with the victims of terrorism and their families, acknowledges the importance of protecting their rights and providing them

with proper support, assistance and rehabilitation while taking into account, when appropriate, considerations regarding remembrance, dignity, respect, justice and truth in such a way that promotes accountability and ends impunity, and encourages the enhancement of international cooperation and the exchange of expertise in that respect, in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations;

9. *Stresses* the importance of ensuring access to justice and accountability, and calls upon States to ensure that any person who alleges that his or her human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated by measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism or violent extremism conducive to terrorism has access to justice, due process and an effective remedy, and that victims of human rights violations and abuses receive adequate, effective and prompt remedy and reparations, which should include, as appropriate, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-repetition as a fundamental basis of any strategy to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

10. *Also stresses* the importance of developing and maintaining effective, fair, humane, transparent and accountable criminal justice systems in a manner that fully respects the rights to equality and non-discrimination in the administration of justice, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal, to a review of detention and to the presumption of innocence and other fundamental judicial guarantees, such as due process, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law;

11. *Urges* States to fully comply with their obligations under international law while countering terrorism, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, with regard to the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

12. *Also urges* States to take all steps necessary to ensure the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and the entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or release;

13. *Further urges* States to safeguard the work of civil society by ensuring that counter-terrorism laws and measures are consistent with and are applied in a manner that fully respects human rights, particularly the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association;

14. *Urges* States to ensure that measures taken to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism are not discriminatory, and not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on ethnic, racial or religious grounds or any other ground of discrimination prohibited by international law;

15. *Also urges* States to ensure, in accordance with their obligations under international law and national regulations, and whenever international humanitarian law is applicable, that counter-terrorism legislation and measures do not impede humanitarian and medical activities or engagement with all relevant actors as foreseen by international humanitarian law;

16. *Recognizes* the important role of religious leaders and institutions, local communities and community leaders in promoting tolerance and in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

17. *Also recognizes* the important role of women in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and requests States to consider, when appropriate, the impact of counter-terrorism strategies on women's and children's human rights, and to seek consultations with their respective

organizations when developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism;

18. *Urges* States to ensure that gender equality and non-discrimination are taken into account when shaping, reviewing and implementing all counter-terrorism measures and to promote the full and effective participation of women in these processes;

19. *Also urges* States to take measures to ensure that counter-terrorism laws and implementing measures are consistent with and are applied in a manner that fully respects the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under international human rights law, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, with a view to ensuring respect for the principles of legal certainty and legality;

20. *Strongly condemns* terrorist acts and all acts of violence committed by terrorist groups, including trafficking in persons, kidnapping and hostage-taking with demands for ransom and/or political concessions, and the continued systematic and widespread abuses of human rights perpetrated by such groups, and calls upon all Member States to prevent terrorists from benefiting from ransom payment and political concessions and to secure the safe release of hostages, in accordance with applicable legal obligations, while noting the initiatives in this regard, including the Algiers Memorandum on Good Practices on Preventing and Denying the Benefits of Kidnapping for Ransom by Terrorists;

21. *Urges* States to do all they can, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to prevent any political, material or financial support from reaching terrorist groups, to deny terrorists safe haven, freedom of operation, movement and recruitment and to criminalize the wilful provision or collection by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds be used, or with the knowledge that they are to be used, by terrorist groups for any purpose, and to bring to justice or, where appropriate, extradite the perpetrators of terrorist acts or any person who supports, facilitates or participates, or attempts to participate, in the financing, planning or preparation of terrorist acts;

22. *Calls upon* States to refrain from providing support to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including support in establishing propaganda platforms advocating hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, including through the Internet and other media, and emphasizes in this regard the key importance of full respect for the right to freedom of opinion and expression as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

23. *Urges* States to adopt rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters, in line with good practices, such as those set out in the Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Phenomenon of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and to adopt a comprehensive approach that includes, inter alia, the development of national centres for counsel and the prevention of radicalization to violence, which can play an important role together with criminal justice responses;

24. *Renews its commitment* to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism in accordance with international law, including the Charter, international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including through technical cooperation, capacity-building and the exchange of information and intelligence on countering terrorism, and in that regard calls upon States and relevant regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars;

25. *Strongly encourages* relevant United Nations agencies, including those involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts, to take into account in their technical assistance with regard to counter-terrorism efforts, whenever appropriate, the elements necessary for building national capacity in order to strengthen criminal justice systems and the rule of law and to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;

26. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism in the performance of her mandated tasks and duties;

27. *Urges* States and the international community and encourages civil society to take measures, as appropriate, including through education, awareness-raising, the media and human rights education and training, to promote a culture of peace, justice and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs and cultures and to effectively address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and that make individuals and groups more vulnerable to the effects of terrorism and to recruitment by terrorists;

28. *Emphasizes* that mutual respect, tolerance, pluralism, inclusion and respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations and the enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding, and combating intolerance, discrimination and hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on the basis of religion or belief, or any other basis, including at the national, regional or global levels, are among the most important elements in promoting cooperation and success in preventing and combating terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and welcomes the various initiatives to that end;

29. *Acknowledges* that the active participation of civil society organizations can strengthen ongoing governmental efforts to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and to assess the impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, and calls upon States to ensure that measures to counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and to preserve national security do not hinder the work and safety of such organizations and are in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

30. *Urges* States to safeguard the right to privacy in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, and to take measures to ensure that interference with or restriction of that right are not arbitrary, are adequately regulated by law and are subject to effective oversight and appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other means;

31. *Calls upon* Member States to remain alert to the use of information and communications technology for terrorist purposes and to cooperate to prevent and counter violent extremist propaganda and incitement to violence on the Internet and social media, including by developing effective counter-narratives, and to prevent terrorists from recruiting and raising funds online for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in compliance with their obligations under international law, and stresses the importance of cooperation with civil society and the private sector in this endeavour;

32. *Expresses its concern* at the increasing use, in a globalized society, by terrorists and their supporters, of information and communications technology, in particular the Internet and other media, to advocate, commit, incite, recruit for, fund

or plan terrorist acts, urges States to take appropriate preventive measures in this regard while acting in full compliance with their obligations under international law, and reiterates that such technologies can be powerful tools in countering the spread of terrorism, including by promoting tolerance, dialogue among peoples and peace;

33. *Invites* all treaty bodies, special procedure mandate holders, international and regional human rights mechanisms and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, within their respective mandates, to pay due attention to the negative impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and on alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and to report regularly to the Human Rights Council;

34. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to contribute to the work of the Office of Counter-Terrorism through, inter alia, participation in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact;

35. *Encourages* the Security Council, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate to strengthen, within their mandates, the links, cooperation and dialogue with relevant human rights bodies, giving due regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in their ongoing work relating to counter-terrorism;

36. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies and entities, in particular those participating in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and international, regional and subregional organizations, which provide technical assistance upon request, to step up their efforts to ensure respect for international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law, as an element of technical assistance, including in the adoption and implementation of legislative and other measures by States;

37. *Calls upon* international, regional and subregional organizations to strengthen information-sharing, coordination and cooperation in promoting the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law while countering terrorism;

38. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

Draft resolution XVI

National human rights institutions

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, as well as those of the Human Rights Council and the Commission on Human Rights on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, including most recently Council resolution [45/22](#) of 6 October 2020¹ and General Assembly resolution [74/156](#) of 18 December 2019, as well as the previous resolutions on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator institutions and other national human rights institutions² in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),³ and noting with appreciation the establishment of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions,

Recalling further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,⁴ which reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities and their role in preventing and remedying human rights violations, in disseminating information on human rights and in education in human rights,

Recognizing the important role of national human rights institutions in analysing the human rights implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including offering guidance to States on ensuring the promotion and protection of human rights in response to the pandemic, examining and monitoring the situation, raising public awareness, including the provision of accurate and timely information, working to protect individuals and groups in vulnerable situations and cooperating with civil society, rights-holders and other stakeholders, and encouraging States to cooperate with their national human rights institutions and to ensure that these institutions can effectively discharge their mandates and functions, including by ensuring the allocation of adequate resources,

Welcoming the role of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional networks in supporting national human rights institutions to fulfil their mandates in the context of COVID-19 and the support provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, and taking note of the research study on the role of the national human rights institutions in response to COVID-19 issued by the tripartite partnership between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Alliance,

Acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁵ are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and recognizing that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development contains a pledge to leave no one behind and envisages universal

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

² “National human rights institutions” and “national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights” are used synonymously.

³ Resolution [48/134](#), annex.

⁴ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

⁵ Resolution [70/1](#).

respect and promotion of human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

Recognizing the importance of the independent contributions of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting all human rights, including, in accordance with their mandates, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, particularly in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks, among other tasks, to realize the human rights of all without discrimination on any grounds,

Reaffirming the importance of, and welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in, establishing and strengthening independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles,

Recalling that the existence of independent national human rights institutions established in line with the Paris Principles is a global indicator of progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that national human rights institutions in all regions have made important contributions towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,⁶

Reaffirming the important role that national human rights institutions play, and will continue to play, in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening participation, in particular of civil society organizations, promoting the rule of law, developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and fundamental freedoms and contributing to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses,

Encouraging greater efforts to investigate and respond to increasing reports of cases of reprisal or intimidation against national human rights institutions, their members and staff and those who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them,

Recognizing the important role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal or intimidation as part of supporting the cooperation between States and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms,

Taking note of the Belgrade principles on the relationship between national human rights institutions and parliaments,⁷

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in assisting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, guided by the Paris Principles, and recognizing also in this regard the potential for strengthened and complementary cooperation among the United Nations, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional coordinating networks and those national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the programme of action adopted by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights at their meeting held in Vienna in June 1993 during the World Conference on Human Rights, in which it was recommended that United Nations activities and programmes should be reinforced to meet the requests for assistance from States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

⁶ E/2021/58.

⁷ A/HRC/20/9, annex.

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights⁸ and on the activities of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the principles relating to the status of institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles),⁹

Welcoming efforts to strengthen United Nations system-wide coordination in support of national human rights institutions and their networks, including the establishment of the tripartite partnership between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and recognizing the potential for further cooperation in this regard between the United Nations mechanisms and processes and with national human rights institutions,

Welcoming also the strengthening in all regions of regional cooperation among national human rights institutions, and welcoming further the continuing work of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions,

Welcoming further the contribution of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions to the strengthening of cooperation among existing national human rights institutions in all regions and the enhancement of the engagement of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles with relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes,

Welcoming the progress made to date by Member States and all other stakeholders, including the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional coordinating networks and relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in the implementation of resolution 74/156,

Welcoming also that the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing is implementing its decision 7/1 of 12 December 2016, entitled “Modalities of participation of national human rights institutions in the work of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing”,¹⁰ and that it invites national human rights institutions fully compliant with the Paris Principles to participate in its work in their own capacity,

Noting with appreciation the opportunities afforded to national human rights institutions to contribute to the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to the Commission on the Status of Women, and noting in this regard the efforts to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at the sessions of the Commission, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming in this regard the decision of the Commission on the Status of Women to encourage the secretariat to continue its consideration of how to enhance the participation, including at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission, of national human rights institutions that are fully compliant with the Paris Principles, where they exist, in compliance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council,¹¹

⁸ A/76/246.

⁹ A/HRC/45/43.

¹⁰ See A/AC.278/2016/2, para. 10.

¹¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2019, Supplement No. 7 (E/2019/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

Recalling the invitation to national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the international migration review forums, including the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearings, and inviting the institutions, as well as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional networks, to submit inputs prior to the forums,

Welcoming the continued contribution of national human rights institutions to the work of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, as well as the efforts of the treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the treaties establishing these mechanisms, to promote the effective and enhanced participation by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at all relevant stages of their work, and noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts of the treaty bodies, including by the continued consideration of a common treaty body approach to the engagement of the treaty bodies with national human rights institutions at all relevant stages of their work,

Taking note of the Marrakech Declaration adopted at the thirteenth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General¹² and welcomes the further inclusion of examples of good practices from national human rights institutions;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the development of effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);

3. *Recognizes* the role of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in working together with Governments to ensure full respect for human rights at the national level, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights mechanisms;

4. *Acknowledges* that, in the performance of their key functions, in accordance with their mandates and in line with the Paris Principles, national human rights institutions are contributing to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

5. *Welcomes* the increasingly important role of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in supporting cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights;

6. *Underlines* the value of national human rights institutions, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles, in the continued monitoring of existing legislation and in consistently informing the State about the impact of such legislation on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations;

7. *Recognizes* the role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal or intimidation as part of supporting the cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, and in that regard takes note of the Marrakech Declaration adopted at the thirteenth International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions;

¹² [A/76/246](#).

8. *Also recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

9. *Encourages* all Member States to establish effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them, in line with the Paris Principles, for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and welcomes the growing number of States establishing national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles, including as one of the means for accelerating and guaranteeing progress for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is also the blueprint for COVID-19 response and recovery;

10. *Encourages* national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights established by Member States to continue to play an active role in preventing and combating all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international human rights instruments;

11. *Stresses* that national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations in their countries, and calls upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them and to bring perpetrators to justice;

12. *Recognizes* the role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Human Rights Council, including its universal periodic review mechanism, in both preparation and follow-up, and the special procedures, in accordance with Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007¹³ and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005,¹⁴ and in the human rights treaty bodies, as well as the strengthening of opportunities for such participation stipulated in the outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Council annexed to Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011¹⁵ and adopted in General Assembly resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011;

13. *Welcomes* the contribution of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to the work of the United Nations, including of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system;

14. *Encourages* national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to continue to participate in and to contribute to deliberations in all relevant

¹³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3 and corrigenda (E/2005/23, E/2005/23/Corr.1 and E/2005/23/Corr.2)*, chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

United Nations mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates, including the discussions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

15. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, including the Economic and Social Council, including the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development and related global and regional processes, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these United Nations mechanisms and processes, bearing in mind the relevant provisions dealing with their participation contained in General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, 5/2 and 16/21 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74;

16. *Encourages* all other relevant United Nations forums and meetings, in accordance with their respective mandates, existing rules of procedure and modalities, to provide for the engagement of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these forums and meetings;

17. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the treaties establishing these mechanisms, to provide for ways to ensure the effective and enhanced participation by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles at all relevant stages of their work;

18. *Encourages* all United Nations human rights mechanisms and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to work, within their respective mandates, with Member States and national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights with respect to, inter alia, projects in the area of good governance and the rule of law, welcomes in this regard the efforts made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop partnerships in support of national institutions, including the tripartite partnership between the Office of the High Commissioner, the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, and in this respect encourages all United Nations human rights mechanisms and relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to enhance their interaction with national human rights institutions, including by facilitating their access to relevant information and documentation;

19. *Stresses* the importance of the financial and administrative independence and stability of national human rights institutions, notes with satisfaction the efforts of those States that have provided their national institutions with more autonomy and independence, including by giving them an investigative role or enhancing such a role, and encourages other Governments to consider taking similar steps;

20. *Underlines* the importance of the autonomy and independence of ombudsman institutions, encourages increased cooperation between national human rights institutions and regional and international associations of ombudsmen, and encourages ombudsman institutions to actively draw on the standards enumerated in international instruments and the Paris Principles to strengthen their independence and increase their capacity to act as national human rights protection mechanisms;

21. *Commends* the high priority given by the Office of the High Commissioner to work on national human rights institutions, encourages the High Commissioner, in view of the expanded activities relating to national institutions, to ensure that

appropriate arrangements are made and budgetary resources provided to continue and further extend activities in support of national institutions, and invites States to contribute additional voluntary funds to that end;

22. *Welcomes* the important role played by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in assisting, when requested, in the establishment of, and in strengthening the compliance of, national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles, in assessing the conformity of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles and in providing technical assistance to strengthen national human rights institutions, upon request, with a view to enhancing the compliance of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, to follow up on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, with a view to enabling national human rights institutions to fully comply with the Paris Principles in both law and practice;

23. *Encourages* national institutions, including ombudsman and mediator institutions, to seek accreditation status through the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions;

24. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions and to support the work of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its regional coordinating networks in this regard, including through support for the relevant technical assistance programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide support to national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, as they engage with relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, with full respect for their respective mandates, and with a view to enabling their most effective contributions, in order to further the implementation of international human rights obligations and commitments;

26. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles, including as one of the means of accelerating and guaranteeing progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in this regard;

27. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage national human rights institutions to interact with and advocate independent participation in all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, existing rules of procedure and modalities;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance necessary for holding international and regional meetings of national institutions, including meetings of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner;

29. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and national human rights institutions, to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, including on best practices among national human rights institutions.

Draft resolution XVII

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [55/105](#) of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions [55/34](#) B of 20 November 2000 and [55/233](#) of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution [55/234](#) of 23 December 2000, and its resolutions [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001 and [75/254](#) A-C of 31 December 2020,

Recalling further its resolutions [58/176](#) of 22 December 2003, [59/183](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/151](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/158](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/221](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/177](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/165](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/162](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/174](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/167](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/187](#) of 19 December 2017 and [74/162](#) of 18 December 2019 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹

Recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,²

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,³

Noting the holding of the forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in Kigali from 4 to 8 December 2017, in Brazzaville from 29 May to 1 June 2018, in N'Djamena from 3 to 7 December 2018, in Kinshasa from 27 to 31 May 2019, in Luanda from 25 to 29 November 2019, in Malabo, from 2 to 4 December 2020 and in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 24 to 28 May 2021,

Recalling the launch of a far-reaching organizational change initiative in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to better integrating work at Headquarters and in the field,⁴

Noting the security and humanitarian situation in the subregion, and in particular the challenges created by indiscriminate attacks and massive abuses of human rights by terrorist groups, including Boko Haram, against the civilian population in many countries of the Central African subregion and in the Lake Chad basin countries,

Noting also that the effective presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the countries covered and continued dialogue with the authorities have generated an increased number of requests for assistance from States,

¹ See [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36*, addendum ([A/56/36/Add.1](#)).

³ [A/76/253](#).

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/70/36)*, chap. III.

Mindful of the vastness and diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within the subregion, and taking into account the need for sufficient funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the subregion,

Noting with concern the negative effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the liquidity crisis of the Secretariat on the capacity of the Centre to deliver on some of its mandate,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided to the Centre by the host country;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, and in this regard encourages the Centre, in delivering and reporting its activities, to give equal consideration to all of the countries covered and to all human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights;

4. *Encourages* the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the implementation of the strategic thematic priorities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the engagement of the Centre in the area of human rights in development and in the economic sphere, through advocacy and the provision of guidance to States, private sector companies and businesses in the subregion, with a view to strengthening commitments to protect and/or respect human rights, and encourages the Centre to increase its support in this field;

6. *Encourages* the Centre to continue to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams, as well as with the peacekeeping missions of the subregion;

7. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

8. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly⁵ in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide additional funds and human resources to the Centre, within existing resources, in particular human resources from within the subregion and national staff at all levels, so as to enable the Centre to achieve greater results in terms of strengthening national human rights systems and moving more rapidly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals⁶ in Central Africa;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁵ Resolutions [61/158](#), [62/221](#), [63/177](#), [64/165](#), [72/187](#) and [74/162](#).

⁶ See resolution [70/1](#).

Draft resolution XVIII

Protection of migrants

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution 74/148 of 18 December 2019, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 35/17 of 22 June 2017,¹ 36/5 of 28 September 2017,² 41/7 of 11 July 2019³ and 47/12 of 12 July 2021,⁴

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁵ which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race,

Reaffirming also that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and that everyone has the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

Reiterating that everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law,

Recognizing that all migrants, regardless of their migration status, are human rights holders, and reaffirming the need to protect their safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms, without any kind of discrimination, while promoting the security and prosperity of all communities,

Recalling all relevant international instruments, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁶ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁷ the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,⁸ the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,⁹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁰ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,¹¹ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,¹² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹³ the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations,¹⁴ the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families¹⁵ and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,¹⁶ in particular the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

² *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. VII, sect. A.

⁵ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁶ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 596, No. 8638.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

Transnational Organized Crime,¹⁷ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹⁸ and in particular the relevant contributions of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to the protection of migrants,

Recalling also the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted on 19 September 2016 at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants,¹⁹

Recalling further that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration²⁰ is based on the following set of cross-cutting and interdependent principles: people-centred, international cooperation, national sovereignty, rule of law and due process, sustainable development, human rights, gender-responsive, child-sensitive, whole-of-government approach and whole-of-society approach,

Acknowledging the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law, in particular their obligations under international human rights law and international refugee law,

Recalling the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, held in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018,

Taking note of the convening of the regional reviews of the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, presented by Europe and North America on 12 and 13 November 2020, Arab States on 24 and 25 February 2021, Asia and the Pacific from 10 to 12 March 2021, Latin America and the Caribbean from 26 to 28 April 2021 and Africa on 31 August and 1 September 2021,

Recalling the provisions concerning migrants contained in the outcome documents of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development,²¹ the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²² and the New Urban Agenda,²³

Recalling also Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006²⁴ and 2009/1 of 3 April 2009²⁵ and its resolution [2013/1](#) of 26 April 2013 on new trends in migration: demographic aspects,²⁶

Taking note of advisory opinion OC 16/99 of 1 October 1999 on the Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law, advisory opinion OC 18/03 of 17 September 2003 on the Juridical Condition and Rights of Undocumented Migrants and advisory opinion OC 21/14 of 19 August 2014 on the Rights and Guarantees of Children in the Context of Migration

¹⁷ Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.

¹⁸ Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹⁹ Resolution [71/1](#).

²⁰ Resolution [73/195](#), annex.

²¹ Resolution [63/303](#), annex.

²² Resolution [70/1](#).

²³ Resolution [71/256](#), annex.

²⁴ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 5 (E/2006/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

²⁵ Ibid., 2009, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2009/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

²⁶ Ibid., 2013, *Supplement No. 5 (E/2013/25)*, chap. I, sect. B.

and/or in Need of International Protection, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,

Taking note also of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 March 2004 in the case concerning *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals*²⁷ and the Judgment of the Court of 19 January 2009 regarding the request for interpretation of the *Avena* Judgment,²⁸ and recalling the obligations of States reaffirmed in both decisions,

Taking note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's policy brief on the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) entitled "COVID-19 and people on the move" and the COVID-19 guidance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Network on Migration on the human rights of migrants in the context of COVID-19,

Underlining the importance of the Human Rights Council in promoting respect for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including migrants,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe impact on people in vulnerable situations, including migrants, among others, and stressing the need to ensure non-discrimination, including in equitable, timely and fair access to quality, safe and effective COVID-19 diagnostics, treatment and vaccines, and recognizing the importance of age-, gender- and disability-responsive approaches in this regard,

Recognizing that women represent almost half of all international migrants, and in this regard recognizing also that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development in countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its entirety, and recalling Sustainable Development Goals 8 and 10, including the targets on the protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants and those in precarious employment, and on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies, as noted in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,

Recalling also its decision to convene the first official meeting of the International Migration Review Forum under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2022, as an opportunity to reflect on migration and mobility in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and to strengthen the collective commitment to uphold the rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and that the forums shall be open to participation by all States Members of the United Nations and all members of specialized agencies that have observer status with the Assembly,

Noting the thirteenth summit meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, chaired by the United Arab Emirates and held in a virtual format from 18 to 26 January 2021, under the overarching theme "The future of human mobility: innovative partnerships for sustainable development",

Acknowledging the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to their communities of origin and destination and the need to identify appropriate means of maximizing development benefits, to respond to the challenges that migration poses to countries of origin, transit and destination, to promote dignified, humane

²⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/59/4)*, chap. V, sect. A.23.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 4 (A/64/4)*, chap. V, sect. B.12.

treatment with applicable protections and access to basic services, and to strengthen mechanisms for international cooperation,

Emphasizing the multidimensional character of international migration, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in this regard, as appropriate, and the need to protect the human rights of all migrants, particularly at a time when migration flows, both within and across regions, have increased in the globalized economy and take place in a context of continued security concerns,

Deeply concerned at the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who place themselves in a vulnerable situation by crossing or attempting to cross international borders, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect the human rights of those migrants in accordance with their applicable international human rights obligations, and reaffirming the commitments to take action to avoid the loss of life of migrants and to uphold the prohibition of collective expulsion, as well as the need to prevent human rights violations in all contexts involving migration,

Recognizing the importance of coordinating international efforts to provide assistance and support to migrants in vulnerable situations and, as appropriate, facilitate their voluntary, safe and dignified return to their countries of origin or procedures for determining the need for international protection while respecting the principle of non-refoulement,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes targeting migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims,

Affirming that migrant smuggling and crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and response and strengthened multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication,

Stressing the importance of all regulations and laws regarding irregular migration, at all levels of government, being in accordance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law,

Expressing concern at the increasing trend of xenophobia and hostility towards migrants in societies, which has a negative impact on the fulfilment of human rights globally,

Stressing the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, including when implementing their specific migration and border security policies, and expressing its concern at measures which, including in the context of policies aimed at reducing irregular migration, treat irregular migration as a criminal rather than an administrative offence, where the effect of doing so is to deny migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard recalling that sanctions and the treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their offences,

Aware that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent restrictive immigration policies and border controls, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt bondage and abandonment,

Recognizing the positive contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

Recognizing also the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination under international human rights law, as well as the need to adopt a comprehensive and integral approach to migration policies, to facilitate safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, in accordance with their relevant obligations under international human rights law, and, as applicable, consistent with their commitments in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,

Underlining the importance for States, in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, workers' organizations and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders, to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, laws, risks and rights in the event of migration in order to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing irregular or dangerous means to cross international borders,

1. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants and ensuring that their legislation and migration policies and practices are consistent with their applicable international human rights obligations, in order to avoid approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises, as well as natural disasters and the effects of climate-related phenomena, on international migration and migrants, and in that regard urges Governments to combat discriminatory treatment of migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families, and to facilitate fair and ethical recruitment;

3. *Calls upon* Member States to develop coherent approaches to address the challenges of migration movements in the context of sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, including by taking into consideration relevant recommendations from State-led consultative processes, such as the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, and the Platform on Disaster Displacement;

4. *Reaffirms* the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under the International Covenants on Human Rights, and in this regard:

(a) Strongly condemns acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, to reinforce existing laws when hate crimes, xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts and, where appropriate, to provide effective remedy to the victims;

(b) Encourages States to establish or, when appropriate, strengthen mechanisms which allow migrants to report alleged cases of abuse by relevant authorities and employers without fear of reprisal, and which allow for such complaints to be addressed fairly;

(c) Expresses concern about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply

with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

(d) Calls upon States to ensure that their laws and policies, in particular in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fully respect the human rights of migrants;

(e) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention;

(f) Takes note of the reports of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its thirty-first²⁹ and thirty-second sessions;³⁰

5. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party, and therefore:

(a) Calls upon all States to respect the human rights and inherent dignity of migrants, to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and, bearing in mind the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, to review policies that deny migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, to pursue alternatives to detention while assessments of migration status are under way and to take into account measures that have been successfully implemented by some States;

(b) Encourages States to put in place, if they have not yet done so, appropriate systems and procedures in order to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions or decisions concerning migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to work towards ending the detention of migrant children;

(c) Also encourages States to cooperate and to take appropriate measures, in full conformity with their obligations under international human rights law, to prevent, combat and address the smuggling of migrants, including strengthening laws, policies, information-sharing and joint operational functions, enhancing capacities and supporting opportunities for migration in a well-managed, safe and dignified manner and strengthening legislative methods for criminalizing acts of smuggling migrants, particularly women and children;

(d) Urges all States to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of liberty of migrants by individuals or groups;

(e) Requests States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, and to regularly train public officials who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law;

(f) Underlines the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

²⁹ Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/75/48)*.

³⁰ Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 48 (A/76/48)*.

(g) Calls upon States to analyse and implement, where appropriate, mechanisms for the safe and orderly administration of returning migrants, with particular attention to the human rights of migrants, in accordance with their obligations under international law;

(h) Also calls upon States to prosecute, in conformity with applicable law, acts of violation of the human rights of migrants and their families, such as arbitrary detention, torture and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions, during their transit from the country of origin to the country of destination and vice versa, including transit across national borders;

(i) Recognizes the particular vulnerability of migrants in transit situations, including through national borders, and the need to ensure full respect for their human rights also in these circumstances;

(j) Also recognizes the importance of promoting respect for human rights in coordinated efforts of the international community to assist and support migrants who are stranded or in vulnerable situations;

(k) Reaffirms emphatically the duty of States parties to ensure full respect for and observance of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, in particular with regard to the right of all foreign nationals, regardless of their migration status, to communicate with a consular official of the sending State in case of arrest, imprisonment, custody or detention, and the obligation of the receiving State to inform the foreign national without delay of his or her rights under the Convention;

(l) Requests all States, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

(m) Invites Member States to consider ratifying relevant conventions of the International Labour Organization, including the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), on decent work for domestic workers;³¹

(n) Encourages Member States to take actions to further promote faster, safer and cheaper remittances, with the aim of reducing the average transaction cost to less than 3 per cent of the amount transferred by 2030, by further developing existing conducive policy and regulatory environments that enable competition, regulation and innovation on the remittance market and by providing gender-responsive programmes and instruments that enhance the financial inclusion of migrants and their families;

(o) Recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to him or her;

6. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in this regard:

(a) Expresses its concern about the increase in the activities and profits of transnational and national organized crime entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially migrant women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions, and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law and contrary to international standards;

³¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2955, No. 51379.

(b) Calls upon States to cooperate internationally to save lives and prevent migrant deaths and injuries through individual or joint search and rescue operations, and standardized collection and exchange of relevant information, as well as to identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families;

(c) Expresses its concern about the high level of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and their accomplices, as well as other members of organized crime entities and, in this context, the denial of rights and justice to migrants who have suffered from abuse;

(d) Calls upon States, within the framework of applicable international law, to take steps to ensure that their national procedures at international borders include adequate safeguards to protect the dignity, safety and human rights of all migrants, including in the context of COVID-19;

(e) Calls upon all States also to include all migrants, regardless of their migration status, in their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, including in equitable vaccination plans and protocols, with full respect for human rights and specific attention to migrants in vulnerable situations, and stresses that there is no place for any form of discrimination, racism or xenophobia in the responses to the pandemic;

(f) Urges Member States to show greater solidarity, especially during times of emergency, to strengthen international cooperation to enhance the protection, well-being, safe return and effective reintegration into labour markets of migrant workers, and to ensure that in combating and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic no one is left behind;

(g) Welcomes immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

(h) Calls upon States that have not already done so to provide for the protection of the human rights of women migrant workers, to promote fair labour conditions and to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation;

(i) Encourages States to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers and, as appropriate, to facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology;

(j) Encourages all States to develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the measures necessary to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration;

(k) Calls upon States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their legislation, policies and practices, including on integration, return and family reunification;

(l) Encourages all States to prevent and eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation at all levels of government that deny migrant children access to education and, while taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to foster the successful integration of migrant children into the educational system and the removal of barriers to their education in host countries and countries of origin;

(m) Reminds all States that all persons, including migrants, should have access to lifelong learning opportunities that help them to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to take advantage of opportunities and to participate fully in society;

(n) Urges States to ensure that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including unaccompanied children and persons with disabilities, and take into account, in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, the principle of the best interests of the child in both the development and implementation of legislation and policies, as well as clarity of reception and care arrangements and family reunification;

7. *Encourages* States to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration³² when designing and implementing their migration policies;

8. *Urges* States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to implement them fully, and calls upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them as a matter of priority;

9. *Encourages* States to protect migrants from becoming victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping, trafficking in persons and, in some instances, illicit smuggling of migrants, including through the implementation of programmes and policies that prevent victimization and provide effective guarantees and protections, as well as access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, where appropriate;

10. *Encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and to take further effective measures to combat human trafficking and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation, debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour, and also encourages Member States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate and combat such trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and to identify and disrupt financial flows related to these activities;

11. *Stresses* the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the protection of the human rights of migrants, through, inter alia, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration,³³ and therefore:

(a) Requests all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants;

³² A/HRC/15/29.

³³ Resolution 73/195, annex.

(b) Encourages States to promote the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its target 10.7 on the facilitation of orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies;

(c) Also encourages States to take the measures necessary to achieve policy coherence on migration at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by ensuring coordinated child protection policies and systems across borders that are in full compliance with international human rights law;

(d) Further encourages States to cooperate effectively in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants and victims in cases of trafficking in persons, regardless of their migration status;

(e) Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

(f) Encourages Governments, as appropriate, to strengthen joint analysis and sharing of information to better map, understand, predict and address migration movements, such as those that may result from sudden-onset and slow-onset natural disasters, the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as other precarious situations, while ensuring effective respect for and the protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants;

(g) Urges all States, in line with relevant obligations under international human rights law, to combat all forms of discrimination, such as expressions, acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, violence, xenophobia and related intolerance against all migrants, while at the same time acknowledging the need to promote an open and evidence-based public discourse on migration and migrants, in partnership with all parts of society, that generates a more realistic, humane and constructive perception in this regard, and to protect freedom of expression in accordance with international law, recognizing that an open and free debate contributes to a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of migration;

(h) Encourages States to include, as appropriate, information on the implementation of their international obligations related to the human rights of migrants in their national reports to the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council and to the treaty bodies;

12. *Reaffirms* the consideration afforded to the issues of migration, development and human rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

13. *Invites* Member States to consider establishing, as applicable, open and accessible information points along relevant migration routes that can refer migrants to child-sensitive and gender-responsive support and counselling, offer opportunities to communicate with consular representatives of the country of origin, and make available relevant information, including on human rights and fundamental freedoms, appropriate protection and assistance, options and pathways for regular migration, and possibilities for safe and dignified return, in a language that the person concerned understands;

14. *Reaffirms* the commitments of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and urges Member States and the United Nations system to work cooperatively to follow up on and apply the Declaration, in accordance with national legal systems;

15. *Encourages* States, relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to continue and to enhance their dialogue in relevant international meetings with a view to strengthening and making more inclusive public policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, including those of migrants;

16. *Recognizes* the importance of the contribution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants, as well as other key actors, to the discussion on international migration;

17. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

18. *Invites* Member States engaged in the negotiations of the Progress Declaration of the International Migration Review Forum to take the present resolution, as well as other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, into consideration;

19. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to submit his report to the General Assembly and to engage in an interactive dialogue at its seventy-seventh session, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

20. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the human rights of migrants;³⁴

21. *Also takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth and seventy-sixth sessions;³⁵

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council at their seventy-eighth and fifty-third sessions, respectively, a comprehensive report entitled “Human rights of migrants”, covering all aspects of the implementation of the present resolution;

23. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

³⁴ See [A/76/165](#).

³⁵ [A/75/183](#) and [A/76/257](#).

Draft resolution XIX

Countering disinformation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁶ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁷ and all other relevant international human rights instruments, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁸

Recalling the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling also its resolutions [75/176](#) of 16 December 2020, [75/267](#) of 25 March 2021 and [75/309](#) of 21 July 2021,

Recalling further the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,⁹ as endorsed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [17/4](#) of 16 June 2011,¹⁰

Recalling the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech of June 2019, and acknowledging that hate speech and disinformation are distinct phenomena which may overlap in some cases,

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression on disinformation and freedom of opinion and expression,¹¹

Reaffirming the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and countering disinformation, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recalling article 20, paragraph 2, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁸ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

⁹ Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework ([A/HRC/17/31](#), annex).

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹¹ [A/HRC/47/25](#).

Stressing that responses to the spread of disinformation must comply with international human rights law and the principles of legality, necessity and proportionality, and underlining the importance of free, independent, plural and diverse media and of providing and promoting access to independent, factual and evidence-based information to counter disinformation,

Reaffirming the need to ensure that efforts to counter disinformation promote and protect and do not violate individuals' freedom of expression and freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and noting that media and information-related technology literacy can help to achieve this through independent and free media, awareness-raising and a focus on the empowerment of people,

Highlighting the global concerns about the rapid spread and proliferation of disinformation, thereby increasing the need for the dissemination of factual, timely, clear, accessible, multilingual and evidence-based information, and emphasizing the need for all relevant stakeholders to address the challenge of disinformation,

Expressing concern that the use of digital technology can enable new pathways for intentionally false or misleading information to be created, disseminated and amplified by State and non-State actors for political, ideological or commercial motives at an alarmingly growing scale, speed and reach, and recognizing, in the context of the challenges and opportunities arising from new and emerging digital technologies, the need to counter disinformation, in a manner that complies with States' obligations under international human rights law,

Expressing concern also about the spread of disinformation on online platforms, including on social media, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to spread racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, to undermine public health messaging, to breach individuals' right to privacy, and to incite all forms of violence, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists, civil society and academia in countering this trend,

Encouraging States, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society, business enterprises, including media, online platforms, social media and technology companies, to foster respect for human rights online and offline in the context of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights due diligence processes,

Deeply concerned at the proliferation of disinformation about the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including online, and stressing the importance of providing science- and evidence-based data and information to the public to counter such practices,

Recognizing with concern that online disinformation campaigns are increasingly being used to deter women from participating in the public sphere and that women journalists, politicians and advocates for women's empowerment are particularly targeted,

Recognizing the role played by all stakeholders through speaking out against disinformation, expressing solidarity with those targeted by disinformation campaigns, and amplifying messages that serve to counter disinformation,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the United Nations system, including the Department of Global Communications of the Secretariat, in helping to counter the proliferation of disinformation, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, by sharing accurate, timely, relevant and multilingual information, and in this regard taking note of the statement by the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session entitled "Responding to an 'infodemic' – sharing best practices" and the Secretary-

General's message to the high-level conference on the theme "The danger of disinformation – countering fake news and safeguarding health in the post-truth era",

1. *Emphasizes* that all forms of disinformation can negatively impact the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;¹²

2. *Affirms* the important role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information plays in strengthening democracy, promoting pluralism and multiculturalism, enhancing transparency and press freedom, and countering disinformation;

3. *Recognizes* that disinformation has the potential to incite discrimination, hostility and violence against vulnerable groups and people in vulnerable situations, including humanitarian emergencies and conflicts;

4. *Affirms* the responsibility of States to counter, as appropriate, and in accordance with international human rights law, the dissemination of disinformation, which undermines the promotion of peace and cooperation;

5. *Condemns* any advocacy of hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media, social media or any other means;

6. *Expresses concern* about the spread of disinformation and propaganda, including on the Internet, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to violate human rights, including the rights to privacy and to freedom of expression, to spread hatred, racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping or stigmatization, and to incite violence, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizes the important contribution by journalists in countering this trend;

7. *Welcomes* civil society and media efforts aimed at identifying and raising awareness about deliberate false news stories and disinformation;

8. *Calls upon* States to counter all forms of disinformation through policy measures, including education, capacity-building for prevention and resilience to disinformation, advocacy and awareness-raising;

9. *Acknowledges* the significant role of business enterprises in the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and in enabling access to information, and recalls that all business enterprises have a responsibility to respect human rights, as set out in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

10. *Expresses concern* that globally disinformation is becoming increasingly professionalized and in some cases is being driven by commercial motives;

11. *Encourages* online platforms, including social media companies, to review their business models and ensure that their design and development processes, their business operations, data collection and data processing practices are in line with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and emphasizes the importance of conducting human rights due diligence of their products, particularly of the role of algorithms and ranking systems in amplifying disinformation, and calls upon them to adopt and make publicly available, after consultation with all relevant stakeholders, clear, transparent, narrowly defined content and advertising policies on countering disinformation that are in line with international human rights law;

12. *Urges* all stakeholders to promote media and information literacy, as a way to empower all people and facilitate digital inclusion and global connectivity, and to assist in countering disinformation;

¹² See resolution [70/1](#).

13. *Underlines* that countering disinformation requires multidimensional and multi-stakeholder responses that are in compliance with international human rights law and the proactive engagement of international organizations, States, business enterprises and all other stakeholders;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General to promote international cooperation in countering disinformation, and in this regard takes note of his call for a “global code of conduct that promotes integrity in public information”;

15. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, special procedures, treaty bodies and all other human rights mechanisms and entities of the United Nations, within their respective mandates, to consider, as appropriate, addressing the impact of disinformation on human rights;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to seek the views of States, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session a report, within existing resources, based on information and best practices shared by States, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders on countering disinformation;

17. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, including the Department of Global Communications, and regional intergovernmental organizations;

18. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to take the steps necessary to effectively coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the present resolution and, in this regard, to consider briefing the General Assembly on its implementation, as appropriate.

Draft resolution XX

The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,³ as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949⁴ and the Additional Protocols thereto,⁵

Recalling its previous resolutions on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, including resolution 68/163 of 18 December 2013, in which it proclaimed 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, and resolutions 69/185 of 18 December 2014, 70/162 of 17 December 2015, 72/175 of 19 December 2017 and 74/157 of 18 December 2019,

Welcoming the latest report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, the current situation and the actions undertaken so far in relation thereto,⁶

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 12 April 2012, in which United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were invited to work with Member States towards a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 21/12 of 27 September 2012,⁷ 27/5 of 25 September 2014,⁸ 33/2 of 29 September 2016,⁹ 39/6 of 27 September 2018,¹⁰ and 45/18 of 6 October 2020 on the safety of journalists,¹¹ 27/12 of 25 September 2014 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education,¹² 32/13 of 1 July 2016 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet,¹³ 34/7 of 23 March 2017¹⁴ and 48/4 of 7 October 2021 on the right to privacy in the digital age,¹⁵ and 44/12 of 16 July 2020 on freedom of opinion and expression,¹⁶ Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1738 (2006) of 23 December 2006 and 2222 (2015) of 27 May 2015, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2021/7 of

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 75, Nos. 970–973.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

⁶ A/76/285.

⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/67/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1, A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1 and A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

¹² *Ibid.*, *Sixty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigenda (A/69/53/Add.1, A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.1 and A/69/53/Add.1/Corr.2), chap. IV, sect. A.

¹³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

8 June 2021 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

Taking note with appreciation of the 2020 report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity, as well as the Windhoek+30 Declaration,

Recalling all other relevant reports of the Secretary-General, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and special procedures of the Human Rights Council on the safety of journalists, as well as the most recent report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security,¹⁷

Commending the role and the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with regard to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity, including their collaboration to strengthen implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and their facilitation of the commemoration of the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists on 2 November, in consultation with relevant entities within the United Nations system, Governments and relevant stakeholders, and recalling the outcome of the multi-stakeholder consultation on strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, and taking note of the opportunity to further foster the implementation of the Plan on the occasion of its tenth anniversary in 2022,

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁸ and the commitments therein to, inter alia, build peaceful and inclusive societies, protect human rights and promote gender equality for sustainable development so that no one is left behind, including by ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements, and therefore recognizing the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in this regard,

Mindful that the right to freedom of opinion and expression is a human right guaranteed to all, in accordance with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that it constitutes one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and development,

Acknowledging that journalism is continuously evolving to include input from media institutions, private individuals and a range of organizations that seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, online as well as offline, in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thereby contributing to the shaping of public debate,

Recognizing the importance of freedom of expression and of free, independent, plural and diverse media and access to information, online as well as offline, in building inclusive and peaceful knowledge societies and democracies and in fostering intercultural dialogue, peace and good governance, as well as understanding and cooperation,

Recognizing also the importance of public trust in and the credibility of journalism, in particular the challenges of maintaining media professionalism in an environment where new forms of media are constantly evolving and where targeted disinformation and smear campaigns to discredit the work of journalists are increasing,

¹⁷ S/2021/827.

¹⁸ Resolution 70/1.

Recognizing further that the work of journalists often puts them and their family members at specific risk of intimidation, threats, harassment and violence, which often deters journalists from continuing their work or encourages self-censorship, consequently depriving society of important information,

Noting the good practices of different countries aimed at the protection of journalists, as well as, inter alia, those designed for the protection of human rights defenders, that can, where applicable, be relevant to the protection of journalists,

Urging States to do their utmost to prevent violence, intimidation, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers, including by supporting capacity-building, training and awareness-raising in the judiciary and among law enforcement officers and military and security personnel, as well as among media organizations, journalists and civil society, regarding States' international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists,

Recognizing the efforts by States to review and, where necessary, amend laws, policies and practices that limit the ability of journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference and to bring them fully in line with their obligations under international law,

Emphasizing the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts to prevent attacks and violence against journalists and in raising the capacities of States in the field of human rights, including in preventing attacks and violence against journalists, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned,

Recognizing that the number of people whose lives are influenced by the way information is presented is significant and that journalism influences public opinion,

Recognizing also the crucial role of journalists and media workers in the context of elections, including informing the public about candidates, their platforms and ongoing debates, and expressing serious concern that attacks against journalists and media workers increase during election periods,

Alarmed at instances in which political leaders, public officials and/or authorities denigrate, intimidate or threaten the media, including foreign and/or individual journalists, and media workers, which increases the risk of threats, reprisals and violence against journalists and undermines public trust in the credibility of journalism,

Expressing serious concern at attacks and violence against journalists and media workers in situations of armed conflict, and recalling in this regard that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,

Bearing in mind that impunity for attacks against journalists remains one of the greatest challenges to the safety of journalists and that ensuring accountability for crimes committed against journalists is a key element in preventing future attacks,

Recognizing the important role that national human rights institutions, where they exist, can play in promoting and protecting human rights, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and in addressing human rights violations and abuses against journalists through monitoring, educating and awareness-raising activities, as well as through the examination of complaints, and recognizing further that national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up can contribute to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses against journalists,

Expressing deep concern at the increased number of journalists and media workers who have been killed, tortured, arrested, detained, harassed and intimidated in recent years as a direct result of their profession,

Deeply concerned by all human rights violations and abuses committed in relation to the safety of journalists and media workers, including killing, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary arrest and arbitrary detention, arbitrary expulsion and physical and sexual violence, as well as intimidation, harassment, online and offline threats, the targeting of their family members or arbitrarily raiding and searching their residence, and other forms of violence of all kinds,

Equally concerned about incidences of extraterritorial targeting of journalists and media workers, including harassment, surveillance and arbitrary deprivation of life,

Expressing deep concern at the growing threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations,

Deeply concerned by the specific risks faced by women journalists in relation to their work, in non-conflict as well as in armed conflict situations, where they continue to be targeted at alarming rates, underlining in this context the importance of taking a gender-responsive approach when considering measures to address the safety of journalists and media workers, including in the online sphere, in particular to effectively tackle all forms of sexual and gender-based discrimination, violence, abuse and harassment, including sexual harassment, threats and intimidation, as well as inequality and gender stereotypes, to enable women to enter and remain in journalism on terms of equality and non-discrimination while ensuring their greatest possible safety, and to ensure that the experiences and concerns of women journalists are effectively addressed and gender stereotypes in the media are adequately tackled,

Deeply concerned also that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has significant implications for the work, health and safety of journalists and media workers, and in this regard concerned about the consequences of the economic impact of the pandemic, which increases the vulnerability of journalists, especially women journalists, and weakens media sustainability, independence and pluralism and worsens the risk of the spreading of misinformation and disinformation by limiting access to a wide range of reliable information and opinions,

Alarmed at threats against, and arrests and enforced or involuntary disappearances, as well as disproportionate and undue restrictions on accreditation, access to information and freedom of movement of, journalists and media workers linked to their reporting on the pandemic,

Acknowledging the particular risks with regard to the safety of journalists in the digital age, including the particular vulnerability of journalists to becoming targets of unlawful or arbitrary surveillance or interception of communications, in violation of their rights to privacy and to freedom of expression,

Recognizing that national legal frameworks consistent with States' international human rights obligations and commitments are an essential condition for a safe and enabling environment for journalists, and expressing deep concern about the misuse of national laws, policies and practices to hinder or limit the ability of journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference,

Stressing the need for greater emphasis on prevention measures and the creation of enabling legal frameworks for freedom of expression to ensure a safe and enabling environment for journalists and media workers,

1. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks, reprisals and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrest, arbitrary detention and expulsion, as well as

intimidation, threats and harassment, online and offline, including through attacks on, or the forced closure of, their offices and media outlets, in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

2. *Also condemns unequivocally* extraterritorial targeting of journalists and media workers, including harassment, surveillance and the arbitrary deprivation of life and calls upon all States to cease and refrain from these measures, further condemns unequivocally the specific attacks on women journalists and media workers in relation to their work, such as all forms of sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence, including online and offline sexual harassment, intimidation and incitement to hatred against women journalists, and calls upon States to tackle these issues as part of broader efforts to promote and protect the human rights of women, eliminate gender inequality and tackle gender-based stereotypes in society;

3. *Stresses the importance* of the full respect for the right to seek, receive and impart information, as included in the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and in this regard for the freedom of journalists to have access to information and the right of the general public to receive media output, and that the safety of journalists and media workers is indispensable to ensuring these rights;

4. *Strongly condemns* the prevailing impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, and expresses concern that the vast majority of these crimes go unpunished, which in turn contributes to the recurrence of these crimes;

5. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement effective and transparent legal frameworks and measures for the protection of journalists and media workers and for combating impunity, taking a gender-responsive approach, including, where appropriate, through the creation and strengthening of special investigative units or independent commissions, the appointment of a specialized prosecutor and the adoption of specific protocols and methods of investigation and prosecution;

6. *Urges* the immediate and unconditional release of journalists and media workers who have been arbitrarily arrested, arbitrarily detained or taken hostage or who have become victims of enforced disappearances;

7. *Calls upon* all States to pay attention to the safety of journalists covering events in which persons are exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression, taking into account their specific role, exposure and vulnerability;

8. *Encourages* States to take the opportunity of the proclamation of 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists to raise awareness regarding the issue of the safety of journalists and to launch concrete initiatives in this regard;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with relevant entities of the United Nations system, and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution [1980/67](#) of 25 July 1980, to continue to facilitate the implementation of the International Day in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders;

10. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence, threats and attacks targeting journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy, thorough, independent and effective investigations into all alleged violence, threats and attacks against journalists and media workers, including sexual and gender-based violence against women journalists and media workers in armed conflict and non-conflict situations, falling within their jurisdiction, to bring perpetrators, including those who command, conspire to commit, aid and abet or cover up such crimes, to justice, and to ensure that victims and their families have access to appropriate remedies;

11. *Urges* political leaders, public officials and/or authorities to refrain from denigrating, intimidating or threatening the media, including individual journalists and media workers, or from using misogynist or any discriminatory language towards women journalists, which thereby undermines trust in the credibility of journalists as well as respect for the importance of independent journalism;

12. *Calls upon* States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, taking a gender-responsive approach, inter alia, by means of:

- (a) Legislative measures;
- (b) Supporting the judiciary in considering training, capacity-building and awareness-raising and supporting training, capacity-building and awareness-raising among law enforcement officers and military personnel, as well as among journalists and civil society, regarding international human rights and international humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists, including with a strong focus on combating, both online and offline, sexual and gender-based discrimination and violence against women journalists, as well as the particularities of online threats and harassment of women journalists;
- (c) Regular monitoring and reporting of attacks against journalists;
- (d) Collecting and analysing concrete quantitative and qualitative data on online and offline attacks or violence against journalists, that are disaggregated by, among other factors, sex;
- (e) Publicly and systematically condemning online and offline attacks, harassment and violence against journalists and media workers;
- (f) Dedicating the resources necessary to investigate and prosecute such attacks and to develop and implement gender-responsive strategies for combating impunity for attacks and violence against journalists, including by using, where appropriate, good practices such as those identified in Human Rights Council resolution 33/2;
- (g) Putting in place safe gender-responsive preventive measures and investigative procedures, in order to protect journalists, especially women journalists;
- (h) Encouraging journalists to report online and offline attacks against them, and providing victims and survivors with adequate support, including psychosocial support;

13. *Condemns unequivocally* measures taken by States in violation of international human rights law aiming to or that intentionally prevent or disrupt access to or the dissemination of information online and offline, aiming to undermine the work of journalists in informing the public, including through practices such as Internet shutdowns or measures to unduly restrict, block or take down media websites, such as denial of service attacks, and calls upon all States to cease and refrain from these measures, which cause irreparable harm to efforts at building inclusive and peaceful knowledge societies and democracies;

14. *Calls upon* States to ensure that measures to combat terrorism and preserve national security or public order are in compliance with their obligations under international law and do not arbitrarily or unduly hinder the work and safety of journalists, including through arbitrary arrest or detention or the threat thereof;

15. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that defamation and libel laws are not misused, in particular through excessive criminal sanctions, to illegitimately or arbitrarily censor journalists and interfere with their mission of informing the public and, where necessary, to revise and repeal such laws, in compliance with States' obligations under international human rights law;

16. *Reaffirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular the right to freedom of opinion and expression;

17. *Emphasizes* that, in the digital age, encryption and anonymity tools have become vital for many journalists to freely exercise their work and their enjoyment of human rights, in particular their rights to freedom of expression and to privacy, including to secure their communications and to protect the confidentiality of their sources, and calls upon States not to interfere with journalists' use of such technologies and to ensure that any restrictions thereon comply with States' obligations under international human rights law;

18. *Also emphasizes* the important role that media organizations can play in providing adequate safety, risk awareness, digital security and self-protection training and guidance to journalists and media workers, together with protective equipment;

19. *Stresses* the need to ensure better cooperation and coordination at the international and regional levels, including through technical assistance and capacity-building, with regard to helping to improve the safety of journalists at the national and local levels;

20. *Calls upon* States to cooperate with relevant United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as international and regional human rights mechanisms, including the relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and invites States to share information on a voluntary basis on the status of investigations into attacks and violence against journalists, including in response to requests by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization through the mechanism operated by its International Programme for the Development of Communication;

21. *Encourages* States to continue to address the issue of the safety of journalists through the process of the universal periodic review;

22. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to further intensify his efforts regarding the safety of journalists and media workers, and invites the agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to actively exchange information and enhance cooperation, including through the network of focal points and, at the local level, with United Nations country teams, as well as accelerate gender mainstreaming in the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, in cooperation with Member States and under the overall coordination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

23. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of journalists in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 16.10, and calls upon States to strengthen national collection of disaggregated data, analysis and reporting on the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and other harmful acts against journalists and associated media personnel, in accordance with Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1, and to do their utmost to make these data available to the relevant entities, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further assist in the implementation of the present resolution and to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session and to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-first session on the safety of journalists and media workers, with a special focus on the safety of women journalists, online and offline, and the activities of the network of focal points in addressing the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity and taking into account the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity and the follow-up thereto.

Draft resolution XXI
Implementing the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of
Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect
Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
through providing a safe and enabling environment for human rights
defenders and ensuring their protection, including in the context of
and recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenants on Human Rights² and other relevant instruments,

Recalling its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, commonly referred to as the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, and encouraging States to uphold the purposes, principles and provisions of the Declaration in the context of its implementation,

Stressing, in this regard, that all human rights and fundamental freedoms apply to all persons equally, including human rights defenders, in the context of the Declaration, and that these rights and freedoms must be respected, protected and fulfilled without discrimination,

Recalling all other previous resolutions on this subject, including its resolutions 66/164 of 19 December 2011, 68/181 of 18 December 2013, 70/161 of 17 December 2015, 72/247 of 24 December 2017 and 74/146 of 18 December 2019 and Human Rights Council resolutions 13/13 of 25 March 2010,³ 22/6 of 21 March 2013,⁴ 31/32 of 24 March 2016,⁵ 34/5 of 23 March 2017,⁶ 40/11 of 21 March 2019⁷ and 43/16 of 22 June 2020,⁸

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility and are under the obligation to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

Reiterating that all human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and should be promoted and implemented in a fair and equitable manner, without prejudice to the implementation of each of those rights and freedoms,

Reaffirming the importance of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders and its full and effective implementation, and that promoting respect, support and protection for the activities of human rights defenders, including women, indigenous and environmental human rights defenders, is essential to the overall enjoyment of human rights, and recognizing the substantial role that human rights defenders can play in supporting efforts to strengthen conflict prevention, peace and sustainable development, including environmental protection, through dialogue, openness,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 and corrigendum (A/65/53 and A/65/53/Corr.1)*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

participation and justice, including by monitoring, reporting on and contributing to the promotion and protection of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and other rights, including the right to development, and in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁹

Recognizing the positive, important and legitimate role played by human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights as they relate to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and deeply concerned that human rights defenders working in environmental matters, referred to as environmental human rights defenders, are among the human rights defenders most exposed and at risk,

Underscoring the positive, important and legitimate role of human rights defenders in promoting and advocating the realization of all human rights, at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by engaging with Governments and contributing to the efforts in the implementation of the obligations and commitments of States in this regard,

Stressing that, in the exercise of the rights and freedoms referred to in the Declaration, human rights defenders, acting individually and in association with others, shall be subject only to such limitations as are in accordance with applicable international obligations and are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society,

Underscoring that the legal framework within which human rights defenders work peacefully to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms is that of national legislation consistent with the Charter and international human rights law,

Welcoming the steps taken by some States to create a safe and enabling environment, online and offline, for the promotion, protection and defence of human rights, and recognizing in this regard the positive efforts by authorities, national human rights institutions, where they exist, and civil society towards the development and enactment of relevant national policies, laws, programmes and practices, and the monitoring of their implementation,

Mindful that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application should not hinder but enable the work, both online and offline, of human rights defenders, including by avoiding any criminalization, stigmatization, impediments, obstructions or restrictions thereof, contrary to the obligations and commitments of States under international human rights law,

Recognizing that, while the institutional measures for the protection of human rights defenders and the promotion of their work within the United Nations, regional organizations and national systems have grown in number since the adoption of the Declaration, they remain insufficient to address the ongoing human rights violations and abuses against human rights defenders around the world, and that strengthened efforts are required for the effective implementation of the Declaration,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life and livelihoods and the disruption to economies and societies caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, including on the advancement of gender equality, around the world and on those on the front line providing support to their communities, including human rights defenders,

⁹ Resolution [70/1](#).

Recognizing that the pandemic has exacerbated and accelerated existing challenges, both online and offline, for human rights defenders regarding their safety and participation, including misinformation and disinformation; acts of intimidation, such as smear campaigns, incitement to discrimination or violence, unlawful or arbitrary surveillance, attacks and killings; restrictions on access to resources; and restrictions on the rights of peaceful assembly, to freedom of association, and to freedom of expression; and has increased the impact of the digital divides,

Reaffirming that emergency measures taken by Governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic must be necessary, proportionate to the evaluated risk and applied in a non-discriminatory and transparent way, have a specific focus and time-limited duration and be in accordance with the State's obligations under applicable international human rights law,

Recognizing the positive, important and legitimate role played by human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in the promotion and protection of human rights in the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery, and that human rights defenders, civil society and journalists working both online and offline at the local, national, regional and international levels are critical to providing accurate information about the situation and needs on the ground, contributing to designing and implementing responsive measures adopted by the authorities that are inclusive, safe, enabling and accessible for all, including for persons with disabilities, providing essential services and feedback on recovery and response measures, pursuing transparency and accountability, and countering disinformation and misinformation,

Gravely concerned that national security, counter-terrorism and cybercrime legislation and other measures, such as laws regulating civil society organizations, are in some instances misused to target human rights defenders or have hindered their work and endangered their safety in a manner contrary to international law,

Recognizing the pressing importance of addressing, and taking concrete steps to prevent and stop, the use of legislation to hinder or limit unduly the ability of human rights defenders to exercise their work and access resources, including by reviewing and, where necessary, amending relevant legislation and its implementation in order to ensure compliance with international human rights law,

Recognizing also that the protection of human rights defenders can be fully achieved only in the context of a holistic approach that includes the strengthening of democratic institutions, safeguarding civic space, the fight against impunity, ending gender and economic inequality and social exclusion, and equal access to justice,

Stressing the importance of meaningful participation of human rights defenders in the implementation of the Declaration, and reaffirming the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, both online and offline, in particular the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, including the Human Rights Council and its special procedures, the universal periodic review mechanism and treaty bodies, as well as regional human rights mechanisms, in accordance with their respective mandates, existing rules of procedure and modalities, without fear of reprisals,

Stressing also the need for further action by States and non-State actors to promote a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and their protection, taking into account their diversity and the diverse contexts in which they operate,

1. *Affirms* the important role of human rights defenders in supporting States to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the pledge that no one will be left behind and to reach the furthest behind first;

2. *Notes* the guidance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on human rights-compliant responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Secretary-General's policy brief on COVID-19 and human rights entitled "We are all in this together";

3. *Recognizes* the positive, important and legitimate role played by human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights in the COVID-19 response and recovery, mindful of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, particularly the rights of women and children, reaffirms the utility and benefit of regular consultations and dialogue with civil society, including human rights defenders, on the development and implementation of public policies, programmes and emergency measures related to the COVID-19 response and recovery and ensuring that measures adopted by authorities are inclusive, safe and enabling, underscores in this regard the significant role of human rights defenders in identifying and raising awareness of human rights impacts and risks of COVID-19-related emergency measures, including by expressing their views, concerns, support, criticism or dissent regarding government policy, including public health and infection control issues, on workplace health, safety and rights, and in their communities, and underlines the need for States to take the measures necessary to safeguard space for such public dialogue and its participants;

4. *Calls upon* States to ensure that COVID-19-related emergency measures are not misused to endanger the safety of human rights defenders, or unduly hinder their work, including by limiting the right to freedom of expression in a manner contrary to international law;

5. *Expresses grave concern* at the situation of human rights defenders around the world, strongly condemns the violence against and the criminalization, intimidation, attacks, torture, enforced disappearance, killing of and all other human rights violations or abuses against human rights defenders, including women, environmental and indigenous human rights defenders, by State and non-State actors, and stresses the need to combat impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses against human rights defenders, including against their legal representatives, associates and family members, are promptly brought to justice through impartial investigations;

6. *Condemns* all acts of intimidation and reprisal, both online and offline, by State and non-State actors against individuals, groups and organs of society, including against human rights defenders and their legal representatives, associates and family members, who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with subregional, regional and international bodies, including the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms, in the field of human rights, and strongly calls upon all States to give effect to the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, including the United Nations, its special procedures, the universal periodic review mechanism and the treaty bodies, as well as regional human rights mechanisms;

7. *Welcomes* the work and takes note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights defenders presented to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, and encourages all States to consider implementing recommendations contained in the reports and to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the criminalization and prosecution of terrorism or national security offences, and the measures used to address threats in this regard, are in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, to avoid endangering the safety of human rights defenders or unduly hindering their work;

9. *Also calls upon* States to take concrete steps to prevent and put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention, including of human rights defenders, and in this regard strongly urges the release of persons detained or imprisoned, in violation of the obligations and commitments of States under international human rights law, for exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms, such as the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, including in relation to cooperation with the United Nations or other international mechanisms in the area of human rights;

10. *Urges* States to promote a safe and enabling environment, online and offline, including through the implementation of existing national legislation that is in compliance with international human rights law and, where necessary, through the adoption and implementation of more comprehensive legislative and administrative measures, in which human rights defenders can operate free from hindrance, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance, reprisals and insecurity, ensuring, among other things, the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs and in cultural life, the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and equal access to justice, including to an effective remedy;

11. *Continues to express particular concern* about systemic and structural discrimination, economic disenfranchisement, violence and harassment disproportionately faced by women human rights defenders in diverse situations and conditions, including sexual and gender-based violence as well as defamation and smear campaigns, both online and offline, and reiterates its strong call upon States to take appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect women human rights defenders and to integrate a gender perspective into their efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights;

12. *Recognizes* young people's essential contributions to defending human rights, democracy and the rule of law and expresses deep concern about the threats, human rights violations and abuses and discrimination young people may face because of their age and the nature of their civic engagement and as a result of their activities in promoting human rights, and in this regard calls upon States to provide a safe, enabling and empowering environment for young people to promote human rights;

13. *Also recognizes* that democracy and the rule of law are essential components for the creation of a safe and enabling environment, and the protection of human rights defenders, and urges States to take measures to strengthen democratic institutions, safeguard civic space, uphold the rule of law and combat impunity;

14. *Calls upon* States to promote, through public statements, policies, programmes or laws, the important and legitimate role of human rights defenders in the promotion of all human rights, democracy and the rule of law as essential components of ensuring their protection, including by respecting the independence of their organizations and by denouncing the stigmatization of their work;

15. *Calls upon* all States to take all measures necessary to ensure the rights and safety of all persons, including human rights defenders, who exercise, inter alia, the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, peaceful assembly and association, which are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights;

16. *Calls upon* States and encourages non-State actors to ensure that those involved in the protection of human rights defenders, their legal representatives, associates or family members are trained in human rights and the protection-related needs of human rights defenders at risk;

17. *Underlines* the legitimate and valuable role of human rights defenders in mediation efforts and in supporting victims in accessing effective remedies for violations and abuses of their human rights, including economic, social and cultural

rights, including for members of impoverished communities and communities in vulnerable situations and for those belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples;

18. *Calls upon* States to take appropriate measures for the prevention of all forms of violence, intimidation, threats, harassment and attacks against human rights defenders on the Internet and through digital technologies and tools, to refrain from the use of surveillance technologies against human rights defenders, in a manner that is not compliant with international human rights obligations, and to protect human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in online spaces and to consider adopting laws, policies and practices that protect them against online threats of violence and intimidation while also affirming the rights to freedom of expression and privacy, and further encourages social media companies to condemn attacks against human rights defenders when they occur on their platforms;

19. *Urges* States to investigate, in a prompt, effective, independent and accountable manner, complaints and allegations regarding threats or human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by State and non-State actors, including against human rights defenders, their legal representatives, associates or family members, and to initiate, when appropriate, proceedings against the perpetrators so as to ensure that impunity for such acts is eliminated and, as far as possible, to report publicly on investigations and proceedings;

20. *Calls upon* States to develop and implement appropriate and effective protection mechanisms for human rights defenders at risk or in vulnerable situations, including through meaningful consultation with them and based on comprehensive risk analysis, and also to ensure that these mechanisms are holistic, appropriately resourced, age- and gender-sensitive, and respond to the protection needs of individuals and the communities in which they live, functioning also as an early warning to ensure that human rights defenders, when threatened, have immediate access to authorities that are competent and adequately resourced to provide effective protective measures, while further research should be undertaken, with a view to improving the effectiveness of existing protection mechanisms;

21. *Underlines* the value of national human rights institutions, established and operating in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles),¹⁰ in the continued engagement with human rights defenders and in the monitoring of existing legislation and consistently informing the State about its impact on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations, while noting with concern that national human rights institutions and their members and staff may themselves sometimes be in need of protection;

22. *Strongly encourages* States to develop and put in place comprehensive, sustainable and age- and gender-responsive public policies and programmes that support and protect human rights defenders at all stages of their work, online and offline, that ensure effective coordination between relevant institutional actors, including coordination within national and local levels, and address causes of attacks against defenders and barriers against the defence of rights, and that take into account, inter alia, the diversity of human rights defenders and the diverse contexts in which they operate, and the intersectional dimensions of violations and abuses against women human rights defenders, indigenous peoples, children, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to minorities and rural communities;

23. *Strongly reaffirms* the urgent need to respect, protect, facilitate and promote the work of human rights defenders promoting and defending economic, social and cultural rights, as a vital factor contributing towards the realization of those

¹⁰ Resolution 48/134, annex.

rights, including as they relate to environmental, land and indigenous issues and business activity, as well as development, including through corporate accountability;

24. *Urges* non-State actors, including transnational corporations and other business enterprises, to assume their responsibility to respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including human rights defenders, and underlines the need to ensure human rights due diligence and the accountability of, and the provision of adequate remedies by, transnational corporations and other business enterprises, while also urging States to adopt relevant policies and laws in this regard, including to hold all companies to account for involvement in threats or attacks against human rights defenders;

25. *Recognizes* the important contribution of the promotion and protection of the safety of human rights defenders in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including target 16.10, and calls upon States to strengthen national disaggregated data collection, analysis and reporting on the number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, torture and other harmful acts against human rights advocates, as reflected in Sustainable Development Goal indicator 16.10.1, and to do their utmost to make these data available to the relevant entities;

26. *Calls upon* all States and encourages non-State actors to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,¹¹ underscores the responsibility of all business enterprises, both transnational and other, to respect human rights, including the rights to life and to liberty and security of person of human rights defenders, and their exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and participation in the conduct of public affairs, and underscores further the importance that business enterprises establish or participate in effective and accessible operational-level grievance mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely impacted;

27. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights, and the United Nations Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space;

28. *Encourages* all concerned United Nations system entities and organizations, within their mandates, to implement the United Nations Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space, and to consider ways in which they can assist States, upon their request, in creating and maintaining a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, and ensuring their protection;

29. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur and other special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to compile and share information on best practices and challenges for the development of a more coherent approach to support the Declaration by the United Nations;

30. *Requests* all concerned United Nations system entities and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate, including in the context of country visits and through suggestions on ways and means of ensuring the protection of human rights defenders;

31. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on her activities to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, in accordance with the mandate;

32. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

¹¹ A/HRC/17/31, annex.

Draft resolution XXII

Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Stressing that States bear the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations is to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁷

Recalling further other relevant international human rights instruments, including the Declaration on the Right to Development,⁸ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁹ in which it is established that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined therein, in particular the commitment made by all States to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages, to achieve gender equality and to reduce inequalities within and among countries,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling its resolutions 74/270 of 2 April 2020, 74/274 of 20 April 2020 and 74/306 and 74/307 of 11 September 2020, and Human Rights Council resolutions 41/10 of 11 July 2019,¹⁰ 44/2 of 16 July 2020¹¹ and 46/14 of 23 March 2021,¹²

Noting World Health Assembly resolutions 73.1 of 19 May 2020 and 74.7 of 31 May 2021, as well as World Health Assembly decision 74(16) of 31 May 2021,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ Ibid.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ Ibid., vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁷ Ibid., vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁸ Resolution 41/128, annex.

⁹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹¹ Ibid., *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹² Ibid., *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

Recalling Security Council resolution [2532 \(2020\)](#) of 1 July 2020,

Recognizing the appeals of the Secretary-General concerning the response to the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, with a particular emphasis on countries in need,

Recalling the outcome of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage, reaffirming its political declaration, entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”,¹³ and recognizing further that universal health coverage implies that all people have access, without discrimination, to nationally determined sets of needed promotive, preventive, curative, palliative and rehabilitative essential health-care services and essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics, while ensuring that the use of these services does not expose users to financial hardship, with special emphasis on the poor and other people in vulnerable situations,

Expressing solidarity with all people and countries affected by the pandemic, and condolences and sympathy to the families of the victims of COVID-19 and those whose lives and livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic,

Recognizing that the availability of vaccines, medicines, health technologies and health therapies is an essential dimension of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Noting that, since the beginning of the vaccine roll-out, the majority of all vaccines administered have been concentrated in high-income countries, while low-income countries still lag behind in gaining access to COVID-19 vaccines,

Expressing its serious concern over the disparity between developing countries and developed countries in terms of the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, which prevents the entire international community from achieving the complete elimination of COVID-19 as soon as possible and also further hampers progress in the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing the need to tackle health inequities and inequalities within and among countries through political commitment, international cooperation and policies, including those that address the social, economic and environmental determinants of health,

Welcoming the global initiatives promoting global solidarity in response to the pandemic, including the efforts of countries that have supplied COVID-19 vaccines, and recalling the thirty-first special session of the General Assembly, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, held on 3 and 4 December 2020, and the high-level meeting of the Assembly on universal health coverage, held on 23 September 2019,

Recognizing that the encouragement and development of international partnerships and cooperation in the scientific and cultural fields contribute to the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, bearing in mind that everyone has the right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications,

Recognizing also the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in ensuring that all States, in particular developing States, including the least developed countries, have affordable, timely, equitable and universal access to COVID-19 vaccines in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid the resurgence of the pandemic,

¹³ Resolution [74/2](#).

Recognizing further the important role that civil society, including non-governmental organizations and women's and community-based organizations, youth-led organizations and all other stakeholders such as volunteers and national human rights institutions where they exist, as well as the academic and scientific community and the private sector play in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences,

Reaffirming the importance of improving the transparency of markets for medicines, vaccines and other health products across the whole value chain,

Taking note of the guidance issued by the treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council on States' human rights obligations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the statement issued on 15 December 2020 by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on universal and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines¹⁴ and the joint statement of several special procedure mandate holders entitled "Universal access to vaccines is essential for the prevention and containment of COVID-19 around the world",

Taking note with appreciation of the guidance note issued on 13 May 2020 by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, on human rights-compliant responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the guidance note issued by the Office on 17 December 2020, on human rights and access to COVID-19 vaccines,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, including good practices and areas of concern,¹⁵

Reaffirming the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, which requires that States take the steps necessary to prevent, treat and control epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases and to create the conditions that would assure medical services and medical attention for all in the event of sickness,

Deeply concerned about the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, and emphasizing the importance of human rights in shaping the response to the pandemic, in terms of both the public health emergency and the broader impact on people's lives and livelihoods,

Underscoring that equitable access to health products is a matter of global priority and that the availability, accessibility, acceptability and affordability of health products of assured quality are fundamental to tackling the pandemic, and expressing its concern about the fact that the unequal distribution of vaccines delays the end of the pandemic,

Reaffirming the fundamental role of the United Nations system in coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread of COVID-19 and in providing support to States, and in this regard acknowledging the crucial leading role played by the World Health Organization, in line with its constitutional mandate,

Emphasizing the central role of the State in responding to pandemics and other health emergencies, and the socioeconomic consequences thereof, and in advancing sustainable development and the realization of human rights,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of States to adopt and implement responses to the COVID-19 pandemic that are specific to their national context, and that emergency measures taken by Governments in response to the COVID-19

¹⁴ [E/C.12/2020/2](#).

¹⁵ [A/HRC/46/19](#).

pandemic must be necessary, proportionate to the evaluated risk, applied in a non-discriminatory way, have a specific focus and duration and be in accordance with States' obligations under applicable international human rights law,

Recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic has a disproportionately heavy impact on women, older persons, youth and children, as well as the poor, people in vulnerable situations and migrants,

Deeply concerned about the disproportionate and negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls and on gender equality worldwide, including due to the increased incidence of domestic violence and interrupted access to sexual and reproductive health, and underscoring the need to ensure a gender-sensitive and people-centred recovery with full respect for human rights, mindful in particular of the need to ensure the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights,

Recognizing that persons with disabilities face a greater risk of COVID-19 infection and have higher mortality rates, and face aggravated barriers to accessing COVID-19 information, as well as to timely and quality health-care services,

Deeply concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic perpetuates and exacerbates existing inequalities and that those most at risk are people in vulnerable situations, including older persons, migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, local communities, indigenous peoples, persons deprived of their liberty, homeless persons and persons living in poverty, and recognizing the need to ensure non-discrimination and equality while stressing the importance of age-responsive and gender- and disability-sensitive measures in this regard,

Noting with concern the uneven access to quality, safe, efficacious and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and the difficulties that a large number of countries face in gaining access to and supplying them to their populations, stressing the important role of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator initiative and of other relevant initiatives that are aimed at accelerating the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines for all countries and at strengthening health systems, and recognizing in particular the vaccines pillar of the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility, which is aimed at ensuring an equitable global distribution of vaccines to all States,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic requires a global response that is people-centred, gender-responsive, with full respect for human rights, multidimensional, coordinated, inclusive and innovative, based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation, to ensure that all States, in particular developing States, including the least developed countries, have unhindered, timely, fair and equitable access to safe diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines, vaccines and essential health technologies and their components, as well as equipment, bearing in mind that immunization against COVID-19 is a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission, and in bringing the pandemic to an end,

Noting the oral update provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council, at its forty-eighth session, on the human rights implications of the lack of affordable, timely, equitable and universal access to and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines and the deepening inequalities between States, including the related vulnerabilities and challenges and the impact on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

Noting also the Strategy to Achieve Global COVID-19 Vaccination by mid-2022 developed by the secretariat of the World Health Organization, which outlines the urgent actions required by the global community to vaccinate 40 per cent of the population of all countries against COVID-19 by the end of 2021 and 70 per cent by mid-2022, anchored in the principles of equity, quality, integration and inclusivity,

1. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to facilitate the development of robust health systems and universal health coverage, encompassing universal, timely and equitable access to all essential health technologies, diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies, in order to ensure full access to immunization for all, in particular people in vulnerable situations, as a matter of global priority for all States;

2. *Calls upon* States and other relevant stakeholders to take appropriate measures to guarantee fair, transparent, equitable, efficient, universal and timely access to and distribution of safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and to enable international cooperation;

3. *Calls for* the accelerated provision of 550 million more doses of COVID-19 vaccines to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility by the end of December 2021 in order to get on track to ensure global access to vaccines to face the pandemic;

4. *Also calls for* intensified international cooperation and solidarity to contain, mitigate and overcome the pandemic and its consequences, through responses that are people-centred, gender-responsive, multidimensional, coordinated, inclusive, innovative, swift and decisive at all levels, with full respect for human rights, including by supporting the exchange of information, scientific knowledge and best practices, and enhancing capacity in particular to assist people in vulnerable situations, and the poorest and most vulnerable countries, to build a more equitable, inclusive, sustainable and resilient future and to realize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;¹⁶

5. *Encourages* States to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to increase research and development funding for vaccines, medicines, therapeutics and diagnostics, leverage digital technologies and strengthen the scientific international cooperation necessary to combat COVID-19 and to bolster coordination, including with the private sector, towards the further development, manufacturing and distribution of diagnostics, antiviral medicines, therapeutics, personal protective equipment and vaccines while adhering to the objectives of quality, efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility and affordability;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of tools to achieve extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission, and to bring the pandemic to an end, by ensuring the availability of safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines;

7. *Calls upon* States and other relevant stakeholders to remove unjustified obstacles restricting the export of COVID-19 vaccines, resulting in an unequal distribution in access thereto between developed and developing countries, and to promote the equitable global distribution of and universal access to vaccines, in order to further the principles of international cooperation and solidarity, to end the current pandemic and to promote the realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

¹⁶ Resolution [70/1](#).

8. *Urges* States to facilitate the trade in, acquisition of, access to and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines as a crucial element of their responses to the pandemic, to ensure the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and to support the administration of vaccines to address the pandemic, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and in accordance with the relevant international legal frameworks, including international human rights obligations, taking into account the principles of non-discrimination and transparency;

9. *Reiterates* the call for States to continue to collaborate, as appropriate, on models and approaches that support the delinking of the cost of new research and development from the prices of medicines, vaccines and diagnostics for diseases, to ensure their sustained accessibility, affordability and availability and to support access to treatment for all those in need;

10. *Calls upon* States and all relevant stakeholders to promote research and capacity-building initiatives and to enhance cooperation on and access to science, innovation, technologies, technical assistance, transfer of technology and knowledge-sharing, to ensure universal, equitable and affordable access for all persons to COVID-19 vaccines, including through improved coordination among mechanisms, especially with developing countries, in a collaborative, coordinated and transparent manner and on mutually agreed terms, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and towards advancing the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals;

11. *Urges* States to leverage digital technologies for the response to COVID-19, including in support of efficient, transparent and robust immunization, addressing the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, paying particular attention to digital inclusion, patient empowerment and the right to privacy and protection of personal data;

12. *Reaffirms* the right of States to use, to the fullest extent, the provisions of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) and the flexibilities therein, as reaffirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which recognizes that intellectual property protection is important for the development of new medicines and also recognizes the concerns about its effects on prices and recognizes further that the Agreement should be interpreted and implemented in a manner supportive of the right of States to protect public health, in particular to promote access to medicines for all, to facilitate access for all to COVID-19 vaccines and to bolster coordination, including with the private sector, towards the rapid development, manufacturing and distribution of vaccines, while adhering to the objectives of transparency, efficacy, safety, equity, accessibility and affordability;

13. *Calls upon* States, other partners and donors to urgently support funding and close the funding gap for the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator and its mechanisms, such as the COVAX Facility, to support the equitable distribution of diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines and to further explore innovative financing mechanisms aimed at ensuring affordable, timely, equitable and universal access to, and the fair distribution of, COVID-19 vaccines for all and the continuity and strengthening of essential health-care services;

14. *Welcomes* steps taken to provide a suspension of debt service payments for the poorest countries, and by international financial institutions to provide liquidity and other support measures to ease the debt burden of developing countries, and encourages all relevant actors, including private and commercial creditors, to address risks of debt vulnerabilities, through existing channels, in developing countries due to the pandemic;

15. *Notes* the most recent decision of the International Monetary Fund to allocate special drawing rights to boost global liquidity and enhance the resilience of the international monetary system, as part of ongoing efforts to support a comprehensive response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and, in this regard, highlights the call for countries to consider voluntarily channelling unutilized special drawing rights, in accordance with national laws and regulations, to the countries which are most in need, including the middle-income countries, to better support sustainable development and a more inclusive recovery, and stresses the importance of ensuring equal access to such resources, to guarantee timely and universal access to COVID-19 vaccines;

16. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to assist developing countries in promoting the full realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications, including through access to medicines that are affordable, safe, efficacious and of quality and through financial and technical support for and training of personnel, while recognizing that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting all human rights rests with States;

17. *Requests* all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to support transparency in all matters relating to the production, distribution and fair pricing of vaccines, in accordance with national and regional legal frameworks and contexts, and urges States to take immediate steps to prevent speculation and undue export controls and stockpiling that may hinder affordable, timely, equitable and universal access for all countries to COVID-19 vaccines;

18. *Recognizes* the immense logistical challenges posed by the lack of infrastructure for the distribution of vaccines in developing countries, including the least developed countries, and calls for greater assistance and building the capacities of developing countries, including through effective training programmes in vaccine delivery in this regard;

19. *Strongly urges* all States to refrain from taking any economic, financial or trade measures that may adversely affect equitable, affordable, fair, timely and universal access to COVID-19 vaccines, in particular in developing countries;

20. *Urges* Member States to promote an enhanced response to future pandemics based on experience gained and the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic and other public health emergencies of international concern, including by building, strengthening and maintaining the capacities required under the International Health Regulations (2005)¹⁷ and by supporting the ongoing efforts in the World Health Assembly to consider the benefits of developing a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic preparedness and response, while taking into account all the obstacles that impeded the effective response to, and treatment of, the disease as well as the need for all countries to have unhindered access to vaccines and essential health products;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

¹⁷ World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

Draft resolution XXIII

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Stressing that democracy, development, rule of law and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Acknowledging also that respecting human rights, protecting democratic institutions and principles and promoting the rule of law creates an environment in which countries can promote development, protect individuals from discrimination and ensure equal access to justice for all by involving Governments, parliaments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, local authorities, national human rights institutions, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to minorities, human rights defenders, civil society, businesses and the private sector, the scientific and academic communities, and all other interested stakeholders,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for organizing, conducting and ensuring transparent, free and fair electoral processes inclusive of all citizens, including those who are marginalized and underrepresented, as well as those belonging to minorities, and that Member States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request international organizations to provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose,

Recognizing the importance of fair, periodic, inclusive and genuine elections, including in nascent democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower citizens to express their will and to promote a successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

Recognizing also that Member States are responsible for ensuring transparent, free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering with vote counts, and that all such acts are sanctioned accordingly,

Highlighting the importance of including women in all their diversity on an equal basis in election processes that are free from discrimination and allow for their full, equal and meaningful participation, allowing for gender-responsive political institutions and the creation of more inclusive societies,

Emphasizing that Member States are responsible for respecting the will of the voters as expressed through genuine, periodic, free and fair elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, and in this respect expressing serious concern about the unconstitutional or unlawful disruption of representative governance and democratic institutions and the unlawful removal of any democratically elected officials, whether by States or non-State actors,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution [74/158](#) of 18 December 2019,

Recalling also all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the topic, including resolutions [19/11](#) of 22 March 2012,¹ [31/14](#) of 23 March 2016,² [31/37](#) of 24 March 2016,³ [33/22](#) of 30 September 2016,⁴ [34/41](#) of 24 March 2017,⁵ [39/11](#) of 28 September 2018⁶ and [48/2](#) of 7 October 2021,⁷

Reaffirming that United Nations electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization are provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

Noting with satisfaction that an increasing number of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of discerning the will of the people, which builds confidence in representational governance and contributes to greater national peace and stability, and which may contribute to regional peace and stability,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948,⁸ in particular the principle that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, as well as the right of everyone to freely choose representatives through periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁹ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁰ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹¹ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹² and reaffirming also that no distinctions are permitted among citizens on any grounds, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability, in the enjoyment of the right to participate, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors,

Reaffirming also that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of the rule of law in the entire world,¹³

Underscoring the important role that regional and subregional organizations play, in accordance with the Charter, in the areas of peace and security, development

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum ([A/67/53](#) and [A/67/53/Corr.1](#)), chap. III, sect. A.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

⁹ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹³ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III, para. 8.

and human rights,¹⁴ and recalling their commitments to supporting the principles of free and fair elections,

Reaffirming that the full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of all women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of gender equality, social inclusion, sustainable development, peace and democracy, as well as for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting with concern the increased demand for unpaid care and domestic work in the light of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and that these disproportionate impacts compound existing obstacles to women's full, effective, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in public life,

Mindful that women continue to account for only one quarter of national legislators worldwide, and highlighting the importance of all women's full, equal and meaningful participation, including women with disabilities, and representation in parliaments, including in leadership positions, and the importance for parliaments to mainstream a gender perspective in their work,

Emphasizing the role of all women in decision-making and leadership positions through broad political engagement and full, effective, equal and meaningful participation and representation across all political, economic and public dimensions of a society is essential to a strong democracy,

Noting such inclusion will further contribute to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the success of peace mediation, peacebuilding processes, post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable global security while simultaneously advancing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the women, peace and security agenda,

Mindful that the full, equal, and meaningful participation of all women in political and public life may only be achieved when all acts of sexual and gender-based violence including conflict-related sexual violence, and sexual harassment both online and offline, are effectively combatted,

Underlining the importance of primary birth registration for the enjoyment of all the rights to which individuals are entitled, including civil and political rights and with respect to political participation,

Recognizing that in order to equally participate in free and fair elections, all women need not only the legal right to vote but the ability to access polling stations and elections information freely, and that Member States should include the perspectives of women in diverse conditions and situations in designing, evaluating and reviewing policies and legislation on participation in political and public affairs,

Noting the importance of providing comprehensive, accessible and free civic education for all people, including all women and girls, as well as electoral information and voting papers, to all having the right to participate in elections, in a range of accessible formats and languages, as appropriate, empowering thus all citizens having the right to participate in elections,

Stressing the importance, generally and in the context of promoting free, fair and inclusive elections, of respect for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information

¹⁴ Resolution 69/277, para. 2.

and media freedom, including through accessible and easy-to-understand formats for new information and communications technologies,

Recognizing the potential of online communication tools to promote freedom of expression and expand political participation, as well as to empower persons who belong to underrepresented groups and those who are marginalized, including but not limited to groups mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,¹⁵ and urging States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference,

Expressing deep concern that the increasing prevalence and spread of disinformation by both internal and external actors on traditional and social media, as well as efforts to manipulate voting systems and the use of Internet and mass media shutdowns to intentionally and arbitrarily prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online in the framework of elections, constitute an urgent problem for democracies around the world,

Recognizing that the spread of hate speech through online platforms is increasingly directed at political figures, disproportionately targeted at women and members of minority groups, causes serious harm to those affected and can have a damaging impact on electoral processes,

Noting that some countries are beginning to use online technology for balloting purposes, and reaffirming the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online,

Recognizing the need to strengthen democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building in requesting countries, including the capacity to administer fair elections, promote voter education, the development of electoral expertise and technology and the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women on equal terms with men, take all appropriate measures to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, increase citizen participation and provide civic education, including to youth, in requesting countries in order to consolidate and regularize the achievements of previous elections and support subsequent elections,

Noting the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair and transparent democratic processes that protect the rights to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and opinion,

Noting also that the international community can contribute to the creation of conditions that could foster stability and security throughout the pre-election, election and post-election periods in transitional and post-conflict situations,

Reiterating that transparency is a fundamental basis for free and fair elections, which contribute to the accountability of Governments to their citizens, which, in turn, is an underpinning of democratic societies,

Acknowledging, in this regard, the importance of national and international observation of elections for the promotion of free and fair elections and its contribution to enhancing the integrity of election processes in requesting countries,

¹⁵ A/76/266.

to promoting public confidence and electoral participation and to mitigating the potential for election-related disturbances,

Acknowledging also that extending invitations regarding international electoral assistance and/or observation is the sovereign right of Member States, and welcoming the decisions of those States that have requested such assistance and/or observation,

Recalling its resolution [60/1](#) of 16 September 2005, entitled “2005 World Summit Outcome”, in which it welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Welcoming the support provided by Member States to the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations, inter alia, through the provision of electoral experts, including electoral commission staff, and observers, as well as through contributions to the United Nations trust fund for electoral assistance, the democratic governance thematic trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Recognizing that electoral assistance, particularly through appropriate, sustainable, accessible and cost-effective electoral technology, can facilitate full access for persons with disabilities and supports the electoral processes of developing countries,

Recognizing also the coordination challenges posed by the multiplicity of actors involved in electoral assistance both within and outside the United Nations,

Welcoming the contributions made by international and regional organizations and also by non-governmental organizations to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization, and stressing the importance of fostering enabling environments in which civil society organizations, human rights defenders, peacebuilders, and journalists and media workers can operate freely and safely, both online and offline, thereby increasing the ability of individuals to take part in elections and election monitoring,

Recognizing the importance of the links between democracy, sustainable, social and economic development, the reduction of inequalities, peace, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance, including the holding of free and fair elections, and in this regard recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁶

Bearing in mind that measures necessary to contain the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic have had a considerable impact on public participation, including through restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, and on access to information, affecting particularly the work of the media and civil society, including women’s rights organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and direct participation in decision-making and leading to restrictions in the context of electoral processes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization;

2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided upon request to Member States by the United Nations, and requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs and legislation of requesting countries to develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes, including by ensuring full access to all stages of the electoral process for persons with

¹⁶ Resolution [70/1](#).

disabilities, recognizing that the responsibility for organizing free and fair elections lies with Governments;

3. *Reaffirms* that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner;

4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in her role as United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, to continue to regularly inform Member States about the requests received and the nature of any assistance provided;

5. *Requests* the United Nations to continue its efforts to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission providing such assistance, including the provision of long-term technical cooperation, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that the results of the mission will be reported comprehensively and consistently;

6. *Notes* the importance of adequate resources for the administration of efficient and transparent elections at the national and local levels, and recommends that Member States provide adequate resources for those elections, including by considering the possibility of establishing internal funding, where feasible;

7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis and calls upon States to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, including based on race, colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views or on the basis of disability;

8. *Strongly condemns* any manipulation of election processes, coercion and tampering with vote counts, particularly when done by States, as well as by other actors, and calls upon all Member States to respect the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including the right to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, thereby fostering conditions in which all citizens, regardless of how they voted, whom they supported or whether their candidates prevailed, have the motivation and incentive, as well as the right and opportunity, to continue to participate directly or through elected representatives in the conduct of public affairs and their Government;

9. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected;

10. *Also calls upon* all Member States to consider ways to increase the representation of all youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms, to promote the constructive political engagement of youth and to consider, explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustained participation of youth and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes;

11. *Further calls upon* all Member States to enhance the political participation of all women, accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all situations, including by taking measures to reduce and

redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men at all levels of government by further inclusion and by measures to prevent and respond to and condemn all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, both online and offline;

12. *Recommends* that, throughout the timespan of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, on the basis of a needs assessment and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes, also bearing in mind that the relevant office may provide additional assistance in the form of mediation and good offices, upon the request of Member States;

13. *Notes with appreciation* the additional efforts being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance, encourages those organizations to share knowledge and experience in order to promote best practices in the assistance that they provide and in their reporting on electoral processes, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations that have provided observers or technical experts in support of United Nations electoral assistance efforts;

14. *Acknowledges* the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards of the many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in observing elections, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation;

15. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations trust fund for electoral assistance, and, bearing in mind that the fund is currently close to depletion, calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the fund;

16. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters and with the support of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to respond to the evolving nature of requests for assistance and the growing need for specific types of medium-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacity of the requesting Government, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Division with adequate human and financial resources to allow it to carry out its mandate, including to enhance the accessibility and diversity of the roster of electoral experts and the electoral institutional memory of the Organization, and to continue to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is able to respond, within its mandate and in close coordination with the Division, to the numerous and increasingly complex and comprehensive requests from Member States for advisory services;

18. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing comprehensive coordination, under the auspices of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, between the Electoral Assistance Division, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support of the

Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure coordination and coherence and avoid duplication of United Nations electoral assistance;

19. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue its democratic governance assistance programmes in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular those that promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and linkages between civil society and Governments;

20. *Reiterates* the role of civil society, human rights defenders, peacebuilders, as well as journalists and media workers, and the importance of their active engagement in the promotion of democratization, and invites Member States to facilitate the full, effective, equal and meaningful participation of civil society in electoral processes;

21. *Also reiterates* the importance of reinforced coordination within and outside the United Nations system, and reaffirms the clear leadership role within the United Nations system of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, including in ensuring system-wide coherence and consistency and in strengthening the institutional memory and the development, dissemination and issuance of United Nations electoral assistance policies;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance, and on his efforts to enhance support by the Organization for the democratization process in Member States;

23. *Recognizes* the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on public participation, with many channels for engagement moving online, posing obstacles for those segments of the population who have limited or no Internet access or who face other barriers to digital inclusion, such as the affordability of the Internet, and encourages States to ensure that all stakeholders, including women and girls, persons living in rural communities and persons with disabilities, have access to timely and accurate information and are fully involved in decisions that affect them.
