



General Assembly

Seventy-seventh session

Official Records

Distr.: General
28 April 2023

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 17th meeting

Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 13 October 2022, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Blanco Conde (Dominican Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Statement by the President of the General Assembly

1. **Mr. Kőrösi** (Hungary), President of the General Assembly, said that he wished to take the delegations out of their comfort zone. The world was at a critical moment, owing to interlocking global challenges, including armed conflict, illegal annexations, the undeniable devastation of the environment, climate change, rising xenophobia and increasing inequalities. Throughout the world, human rights had suffered as a result of those crises, which were deeply interconnected and must be addressed as a whole. Immediate answers and sustainable solutions were needed. Business as usual was not an option.

2. He expected the resolutions of the Committee to be more than technical. It must not be forgotten that human rights were undeniable and inalienable and should be respected. The Committee bore a great responsibility, as it played a critical role in guiding actions on the ground. For those reasons, he had several requests for the Committee. First, its resolutions should be comprehensible. In order to have an impact, those resolutions must be understood by the global population. Delegations should ask whether they could explain in one minute the relevance of those resolutions and of the Committee's work and how that work contributed to a better world. In a time of crisis, it should be possible to convey such relevance in 60 seconds.

3. Second, delegations should listen to and engage with one another. During the current session, many members of delegations would attend in-person negotiations for the first time. They should take full advantage of that opportunity as the essence of diplomacy was human relations. The two and a half years of virtual interactions had contributed to the erosion of trust between delegations. The current session should be used to engage in honest dialogue. Delegations should be present in the room and listen to one another and to the youth delegates. They should rely on the support of the United Nations system and take advantage of the advice and experience of civil society organizations. He was pleased that the Chair had already held a briefing with civil society and hoped that that practice would continue during the remainder of the session.

4. Third, all work should be viewed through the lens of crisis management and transformation. The solutions to twentieth-century challenges might not be appropriate to the current day. While profound changes were needed in many social, economic and political processes, transformation did not come cheap: it

required a challenge to existing arrangements. Game-changers, robust solutions and vision should be sought. Enabling conditions should be created for the realization of that vision.

5. All must be part of the solution, including women, who, despite representing half of humanity, were still often stripped of their human rights. Currently, up to 10 million girls were at risk of child marriage and, in some regions, there were renewed efforts to keep girls out of school. Such attitudes would perpetuate gender gaps, seriously hindering the prospect of building a better world. However, many women and girls refused to be defined as victims only. They were agents of change.

6. Although all human beings were born free and equal, that was not reflected in the current reality. No country had a perfect human rights track record and the role of the Committee was to ensure that the rights of all people were respected, regardless of gender, race, belief, political affiliation, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender identity or migration status. The work of the Committee would address violence against women and trafficking in persons; the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and migrant workers; the moratorium on the death penalty; and freedom of religion or belief. Most importantly, it would identify solutions to problems. Solutions did not emerge organically; rather, they were created by people. The Committee could show the world not only how connected the problems were, but also how connected the solutions could be. There was a need to look beyond individual silos and beyond the Committee itself. Delegations should engage with the United Nations system.

7. His job, as President of the General Assembly, was to build bridges and to help the Committee to arrive at meaningful decisions. He was supported by a human rights and humanitarian affairs team that would be partners in that endeavour. The job of the delegations was to find solutions that made the world a better place.

Agenda item 68: Promotion and protection of human rights

(a) Implementation of human rights instruments

(A/77/40, A/77/44, A/77/228, A/77/230, A/77/231, A/77/279, A/77/289 and A/77/344)

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

(A/77/48, A/77/56, A/77/139, A/77/157, A/77/160, A/77/162, A/77/163, A/77/167, A/77/169, A/77/170, A/77/171, A/77/172, A/77/173, A/77/174, A/77/177,

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- (c) **Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives** ([A/77/149](#), [A/77/168](#), [A/77/181](#), [A/77/195](#), [A/77/220](#), [A/77/227](#), [A/77/247](#), [A/77/255](#), [A/77/311](#), [A/77/328](#) and [A/77/356](#))
- (d) **Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action** ([A/77/36](#))

8. **Ms. Brands Kehris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York), speaking via video link, introduced the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([A/77/36](#)). She said that the report provided an overview of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) between 1 January and 30 June 2022. Significant upheavals were being experienced globally with respect to water, energy and food insecurity; devastating natural disasters; financial instability and soaring inflation; conflict; unprecedented inequalities; and persistent impunity. The growing disparity between international standards and the reality on the ground was generating mistrust between peoples and communities. In that context, the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda and his Call to Action for Human Rights served as the blueprint for joint efforts. A human rights approach could inform the decisions necessary for tackling the root causes of inequality and addressing the threats posed by political and economic instability. When implemented in a way that delivered concrete change, human rights could bridge the divide between communities, help to make peace with nature and point the way to sustainable development.

9. **Ms. Chanda** (Switzerland) said that her delegation welcomed the commitment of OHCHR, highlighted in the report, to strengthening citizen participation and the links between the pillars of the United Nations. She asked how OHCHR expected to reinforce those links.

10. The mandate of OHCHR was universal and did not stop at the borders of the most powerful countries. Switzerland called on States to provide OHCHR with

the resources necessary to fulfil its mandate. The realization of and respect for human rights were indispensable for stability and for the promotion of peace and sustainable development. As an elected member of the Security Council, Switzerland would strengthen its commitment to place human rights at the heart of peace and security issues.

11. **Mr. Poveda Brito** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking on behalf of the Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, said that the Group attached great value to the promotion and protection of all human rights, without distinction. The Group also believed that the promotion and protection of human rights were enhanced through dialogue and cooperation in accordance with the principles of impartiality, objectivity, transparency, non-selectivity, non-politicization and non-confrontation and within a framework of equality and mutual respect between States. The mandate of OHCHR must be carried out in a manner that did not undermine those core principles and must not be used to undermine the sovereignty of States or interfere in their internal affairs.

12. The Group reiterated its categorical rejection of double standards in the area of human rights. It also expressed serious concern about the continued and growing proliferation of mechanisms and procedures that purported to conduct impartial assessments of human rights situations in specific States but which, in most cases, lacked the due consent and participation of the concerned State, relied on biased or non-credible secondary sources and furthered dubious political agendas. In that context, the Group noted that, in certain instances, OHCHR assessments had extended far beyond the Office's mandate. The Group wished to hear the views of the Assistant Secretary-General regarding the negative impact of unilateral approaches, including unilateral coercive measures, on the human rights of the most vulnerable groups in society.

13. **Mr. Pildegovičs** (Latvia) said that it was regrettable that budgetary resources for the United Nations human rights pillar remained insufficient, which could jeopardize the success of the work of OHCHR. Latvia therefore continued to call for adequate and predictable financing so that human rights and fundamental freedoms could be effectively protected. Latvia was greatly concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in many countries, including Belarus, Russia and Myanmar. Latvia was also concerned about the outrageous violations of the human rights of Ukrainian people as a result of the Russian war of aggression, including forced deportations and acts of sexual violence and torture by Russian troops, as

concluded by the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.

14. Latvia also wished to draw attention to the deteriorating situation of political prisoners in Belarus and Russia. According to the Viasna human rights centre, there were 1,352 political prisoners in Belarus. Bloggers, businesspersons, presidential campaign members and peaceful protesters were held in prisons merely because they had exercised their rights to participate in peaceful assemblies, to express their opinions and to be involved in political activities. Based on the evidence from the Memorial Human Rights Centre, there were 447 political prisoners in Russia. The case of Vladimir Kara-Murza, a prominent Russian opposition politician imprisoned for speaking out against the war in Ukraine, was particularly disturbing. He was one of thousands of people detained across Russia and facing fines and prison sentences of up to 15 years for telling the truth.

15. In the light of the recent Human Rights Council resolution appointing a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, he asked the Assistant Secretary-General what more the United Nations should do to address the appalling human rights situation there. She also asked how the monitoring and reporting of Russian human rights violations in Ukraine could be improved so that the United Nations could become a more reliable source of information in the fight against impunity.

16. **Mr. Gonzato** (Representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer) said that his delegation welcomed the release of the OHCHR report entitled “Assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, People’s Republic of China”, which added to the existing body of evidence on that issue. According to that report, some serious human rights violations might constitute international crimes, in particular crimes against humanity. The European Union underscored the need for justice and accountability and urged China to cooperate with OHCHR on the implementation of the report’s recommendations. The European Union called upon all States to fully cooperate with OHCHR and human rights mechanisms, including by granting access to their territories.

17. The new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights would begin his mandate against the backdrop of the Russian war of oppression against Ukraine and attacks on human rights in many parts of the world. The United Nations must remain a beacon of universal human rights. The European Union welcomed the progress made by OHCHR and by the wider United

Nations system on capacity-building and preventing human rights abuses and commended the work done to implement the due diligence policy and compliance frameworks.

18. The High Commissioner’s annual report contained examples of technical assistance to support the design and implementation of transitional justice processes. He asked the Assistant Secretary-General to share her assessment of successful recent transitional justice processes and to identify where new processes should be launched. He also asked for an update on the implementation of the human rights dimension of Our Common Agenda.

19. **Ms. Hamilton** (United States of America) said that the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights ([A/HRC/51/47](#)) would be presented in the Committee on 14 October, an indication of its importance for the work of the United Nations. The United States was gravely concerned about the human rights situations in Afghanistan, Belarus, Burma, Ethiopia, Iran, Syria and Yemen and appreciated the efforts of OHCHR to document abuses in those contexts and to support human rights defenders. The United States strongly condemned the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity perpetrated in Xinjiang by the People’s Republic of China and its abuses elsewhere, including extreme restrictions on the exercise of human rights in Tibet and the erosion of the autonomy of Hong Kong. The United States called attention to reports, documented in the OHCHR assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region, of surveillance, arbitrary detention, torture, forced sterilization measures, forced labour and other violations in Tibet. The United States called on China to cease committing atrocities, release those arbitrarily detained, abolish its internment camps, account for disappeared persons and allow independent experts unhindered access to Xinjiang.

20. The United States also noted that Russian forces were committing horrific atrocities and abuses in Ukraine, including disappearances, torture, family separation and the forced deportation and killing of Ukrainian civilians, including children. The United States also noted with concern the intensifying suppression of dissent inside Russia.

21. The United States noted the absence in the Human Rights Council of an independent international reporting mechanism on human rights violations in Yemen. It was deeply disappointing that the sponsors of the Human Rights Council resolution on technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field

of human rights had flatly rejected the constructive proposals of the United States. The international community should work together to ensure that a new independent mechanism was re-established as soon as possible. She asked how Member States could best support the mission of the High Commissioner.

22. **Ms. Skoczek** (Poland) said that her country staunchly supported the rights of vulnerable groups, such as children, persons with disabilities and persons belonging to religious or belief minorities. Poland had sponsored Human Rights Council resolution 51/5 on the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights. A continuing priority for the country was the situation of human rights in Eastern Europe. The crackdown in Belarus on opposing voices after the fraudulent 2020 presidential elections, the accelerated deterioration of the human rights situation in the Russian Federation and the unjustified military aggression by Russia against Ukraine all showed that human rights in those countries remained of utmost concern for OHCHR and for the international community as a whole.

23. Poland was appalled by the horrific atrocities perpetrated by Russia in Ukraine and would continue its efforts to alleviate the human suffering. Since the beginning of the war, Poland had accepted 2.3 million Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children. Poland staunchly supported the Human Rights Council mechanisms dedicated to monitoring the situation of human rights in Belarus, Ukraine and, most recently, in Russia. Those mechanisms, which provided valuable contributions in addressing ongoing violations of human rights and strengthening the human rights pillar, were indispensable for maintaining the credibility of the entire United Nations. They therefore required sufficient and predictable funding. She asked the Assistant Secretary-General to share her ideas for ensuring that human rights mandates were not undermined by politically motivated funding cuts.

24. **Ms. Banaken Elel** (Cameroon) said that the greatest priority for her country was the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, as they were critical for the enjoyment of all human rights. Cameroon welcomed the efforts of OHCHR in that regard. She asked Assistant Secretary-General what measures would be implemented by her Office to reinforce the right to development in particular.

25. A second priority for Cameroon was the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, located in Yaoundé. Her delegation was concerned about the financial situation of the West

and Central Africa Regional Office and wished to hear about the steps taken towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 76/171 requesting OHCHR to provide additional resources to the Centre, including human resources from within the subregion.

26. A third priority was equitable geographical representation in OHCHR. She asked the Assistant Secretary-General to discuss the measures taken or envisaged to ensure that staff from developing countries, particularly Africans and people of African descent, were represented on an equal footing at all levels.

27. **Mr. da Fonseca Fernandes Ramos** (Portugal) said that his country reaffirmed its strong commitment to promote, protect, respect and fulfil all human rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights. In particular, Portugal would continue to draw attention to issues such as human rights and youth, human rights and mental health and human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS. Portugal also reiterated its commitment to supporting the independence of OHCHR.

28. The human rights pillar was the most underfunded of the three pillars of the United Nations, receiving less than 7 per cent of the overall budget. Portugal wished to hear the views of the Assistant Secretary-General on how best to address that matter. Portugal would also be interested in hearing the answer to the question posed by the European Union regarding the development of the human rights pillar in the context of Our Common Agenda.

29. **Mr. Lammar** (Luxembourg) said that his country welcomed the recent adoption by the Chairs of the treaty bodies of the eight-year review cycle, which would harmonize working methods and increase predictability. Unfortunately, there was resistance to recognizing equal rights across the world. The delegation of Luxembourg thanked OHCHR for its efforts to defend the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and asked how their human rights could be ensured.

30. Luxembourg underlined the importance of civil society participation in the work of the United Nations. Luxembourg welcomed the repetition in 2022 of the Committee practice, initiated during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly, of holding a dialogue with civil society. He asked the Assistant Secretary-General what concrete measures could be pursued to integrate civil society into the work of the Committee and how to ensure that civil society organizations did not suffer reprisals for working with the United Nations.

31. **Mr. Shin Joongil** (Republic of Korea) said that his country was concerned about worsening human rights situations around the world and reaffirmed that human rights were universal and indivisible. In order ensure respect for human rights, the international community must work together to enhance relevant capacities in developing countries and galvanize its political will. The Republic of Korea greatly appreciated close cooperation from OHCHR on several human rights issues. First, the Republic of Korea was pleased that Human Rights Council resolution 51/12 on local government and human rights, prepared in collaboration with OHCHR, had been adopted by consensus the previous week at the Council. The Republic of Korea also greatly valued the Office's continued support in addressing the issue of new and emerging digital technologies and human rights. In close cooperation with the Core Group on New and Emerging Digital Technologies and Human Rights and OHCHR, his country had held an event on the margins of the session of the Human Rights Council on promoting and protecting human rights in the digital era.

32. His delegation also wished to highlight the importance of OHCHR in addressing sexual and gender-based violence in conflict. The Government, which had launched the Action with Women and Peace initiative and was preparing for the fourth international conference in that regard, to be held in December 2022, looked forward to continued cooperation with OHCHR in that area.

33. **Ms. Buist-Catherwood** (New Zealand) said that all Member States should promote a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders should be able to operate in a safe and open environment. Furthermore, given the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination affecting human rights defenders who belonged to vulnerable or marginalized groups, including women; persons with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons; and Indigenous Peoples. States must work together to protect the most vulnerable.

34. OHCHR played an essential role within the United Nations human rights architecture, providing much-needed capacity-building and technical assistance to countries seeking to fulfil their international human rights obligations. New Zealand therefore urged all Member States to cooperate with the United Nations, to support its work and to condemn all acts of intimidation and reprisals.

35. **Mr. Tun** (Myanmar) said that military forces in Myanmar were now targeting any community deemed to be supporting their opponents. The human rights

situation in the country continued to deteriorate and the serious human rights violations there amounted to crimes against humanity and war crimes.

36. The illegal military junta in Myanmar had failed to govern in meaningful and sustainable ways. Its administration had collapsed in many areas due to increasing opposition and now clung to power by means of brutality and terror against the people of Myanmar. The international community must take all steps within its power to support the people of Myanmar, to act in a coordinated fashion to financially isolate the military and to impose arms embargos. The military junta would continue to commit atrocities until it was stopped.

37. He asked the Assistant Secretary-General what Member States should do to prevent further military atrocities and to help the people of Myanmar and their elected national unity Government to restore democracy, human rights and the rule of law in the country. He also wished to hear the Assistant Secretary-General's thoughts on the possible consequences for the safe return of the Rohingya if democracy and the rule of law were not swiftly restored in Myanmar.

38. **Mr. Pilipenko** (Belarus) said that the structure of the report by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had been improved, but not the content. The text remained a blatant copy of the main talking points of Western States and depicted a one-sided view of the faultlessness of one set of countries, which entirely escaped analysis by OHCHR, and of the multiple human rights problems facing all the others. OHCHR should monitor all countries on an equal footing, including those whose delegations had been prepared at the current meeting to discuss the political situation in sovereign China, Belarus and other countries, but not the situation in their own country.

39. His delegation was indignant that the report did not devote significant space to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights. It therefore wished to know how OHCHR assessed the impact of such measures on human rights, what further work it would do in that regard, and, in particular, what practical steps it would take to address the impact of such measures.

40. With regard to sections of the report on the functioning of the human rights treaty bodies, first, his delegation did not support the proposal to increase the funding of treaty bodies as it believed that it would be more effective to redistribute existing resources. Second, States' implementation of international treaties should be considered only on the condition that reports had been submitted and that the relevant delegation was present. Lastly, an open and inclusive process should be

established to ensure predictable and fixed reporting and consultation schedules by streamlining treaty bodies' working methods, which had a significant impact on how States interacted with the Committees.

41. **Ms. Dale** (Norway), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden), said that the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had a mandate to identify, verify and report on all serious human rights situations. The objective and well-researched assessments of OHCHR were a testament to its integrity.

42. OHCHR had a crucial role to play in assisting States in implementing their human rights obligations. Their countries strongly supported the technical assistance and capacity-building it provided and reiterated their call for the regular budget financing of the Office to be increased.

43. The Human Rights Council had a responsibility to address human rights violations wherever they occurred. It was therefore regrettable that a majority of the Council had voted against follow up to the OHCHR assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China.

44. **Mr. Froment** (France) said that his delegation was concerned by the shrinking number of spaces reserved for civil society across the world. In that connection, it supported the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office and advocated for their independence. France strongly condemned all forms of intimidation, threats, violence and reprisals against individuals who had cooperated with the United Nations system.

45. All the bodies and mechanisms of the United Nations designed to promote universal human rights should continue to carry out their activities with predictable, regular and sufficient funding while also ensuring the modernization and harmonization of their working methods. He therefore wished to know what could be done to ensure that the concluding observations made by the Chairs of the treaty bodies in June 2022 led to tangible progress.

46. **Ms. Langerholc** (Slovenia) said that the important work of OHCHR should be emphasized not only in Geneva and New York, but also on the ground and States should take full advantage of the vast information and knowledge of the Office. It was necessary for OHCHR to have a strong voice on the preventive role of human rights, on the promotion of human rights, and on justice and accountability for gross violations of international human rights law. In that regard, the reports and assessments of the Office were indispensable.

47. Noting that gross human rights violations were important indicators of possible future conflict, she asked how exchanges between OHCHR and the Security Council could be improved.

48. Reaffirming its strong support for the independence of OHCHR, Slovenia called on all States to cooperate with the Office, including by allowing it full and unrestricted access.

49. **Ms. Cedano** (Dominican Republic) said that her country was profoundly concerned by the deteriorating situation of human rights. Human rights should be addressed in a comprehensive manner which included all people, with no room for inequality.

50. The eradication of impunity for human rights abuses would be essential in ensuring that obligations to international law were met. She therefore wished to know what States could do to improve accountability and justice for such violations.

51. The Dominican Republic was concerned by the lack of funding for the human rights pillar of the United Nations, including for OHCHR. It therefore called for States to ensure that it had the necessary funding and resources. Furthermore, the rights and fundamental freedoms of young people continued to be ignored, despite the constant discrimination and obstacles faced by that group in the enjoyment of their human rights. The Dominican Republic would therefore welcome an update on the implementation of the recommendations made in the High Commissioner's report on youth and human rights ([A/HRC/39/33](#)).

52. **Ms. Lortkipanidze** (Georgia) said that Georgia condemned in the strongest possible terms the premeditated, unjustified, unprovoked and ruthless military aggression by Russia against Ukraine and its illegal annexation of the territories of Ukraine.

53. Russia had pursued the same policy towards Georgia and Ukraine and, 14 years after its full-scale military aggression against Georgia, continued to illegally occupy the Georgian territories of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali.

54. The illegal occupation had a severe impact on the population of the affected regions, who suffered from illegal militarization, installation of artificial barriers and ever-increasing human rights violations. The gross violation by Russia of the fundamental norms of international law had been attested by a ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in January 2021 and the International Criminal Court had recently issued arrest warrants for individuals bearing criminal responsibility for the war crimes committed during the military aggression by Russia against Georgia.

55. Russia continued to prevent international human rights monitoring mechanisms, including OHCHR, from entering the occupied regions of Georgia.

56. **Mr. Drescher** (Germany) said that his country continued to advocate for a strong link between the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. In that regard, the frequent briefings of OHCHR were vital for a cohesive approach to human rights within the United Nations and for the holistic strengthening of human rights.

57. Germany was proud to be the fifth largest donor to OHCHR and intended to increase its financial support further in 2023. Germany also wholeheartedly supported the efforts of the Office in increasing accountability around the world, including through the work of the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine.

58. Following its recent election to the Human Rights Council, Germany would continue work on issues including gender equality, freedom of religion and belief, the right to privacy and human rights related to climate change.

59. He wished to know how OHCHR would follow up on its 2022 assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region of China.

60. **Mr. Parga Cintra** (Brazil) said that all Member States continued to face the task of overcoming the threat posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The pandemic had shown that it was necessary to redouble collective efforts to detect new threats and health crises, to address such threats in an agile, efficient and coordinated manner, to further strengthen national health systems and to intensify international cooperation. The production of essential health technologies could not be restricted to a small number of nations.

61. Brazil had been active in fighting gender-based violence and discrimination and in empowering women. Brazil was also fully committed to current negotiations regarding resolutions on the rights of the child and to advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

62. Cooperation in humanitarian crises must be underpinned by the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and Brazil had sought to contribute to humanitarian assistance efforts.

63. **Ms. Mudrenko** (Ukraine) said that a strong and independent human rights presence was crucial in the context of the full-scale invasion and war of aggression by Russia against Ukraine, which had caused a rapid and

dramatic deterioration of the human rights situation. In that regard, the continued regular, objective and credible monitoring of the situation in Ukraine by the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine would contribute to preventing further human rights abuses and to bringing those responsible to justice.

64. The ongoing aggression by Russia was accompanied by massive human rights abuses, war crimes and crimes against humanity and constituted a deliberate destruction of the Charter of the United Nations. As well as the destructive impact and unspeakable suffering caused to millions of Ukrainians, the war had put numerous other countries on the verge of hunger, exacerbated extreme poverty, created an unprecedented threat of nuclear catastrophe and undermined the livelihoods and prospects of millions of people. Such flagrant violation of human rights on all continents should be strongly rejected.

65. Ukraine called on the international community and the United Nations to take all possible measures to prevent further heinous atrocities and to secure further achievements in the field of human rights.

66. **Mr. Al-Mansoori** (Qatar) said that his country, out of its commitment to supporting OHCHR so that it could carry out its mandate, had pledged \$1 million for the 2021–2023 period. Qatar had fulfilled its \$2 million pledge for the years 2021 and 2022. Qatar also affirmed that hosting and supporting the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region remained a high priority. Qatar looked forward to further cooperation with OHCHR in fulfilment of its commitment to protect and promote human rights at the national, regional and international levels.

67. **Mr. Oehri** (Liechtenstein) said that Liechtenstein remained concerned by the severe humanitarian and security crisis in Haiti. He wished to know how OHCHR would engage regarding the situation and what needed to be done by the United Nations.

68. The human rights and humanitarian situation in Afghanistan had worsened since the takeover by the Taliban, especially for women and girls. He asked how OHCHR planned to address the situation and engage with those in power.

69. The human rights situation in Myanmar had also deteriorated since the coup in 2021. Recent attacks against a school illustrated the military junta's continued disrespect of international humanitarian and human rights law. He wished to know how OHCHR would engage with the region's parties to the conflict,

particularly in light of the upcoming summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

70. Lastly, he asked to what extent OHCHR was planning to follow up on and strengthen its focus on the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations worldwide.

71. **Mr. Elizondo Belden** (Mexico) said that the work of OHCHR and the United Nations treaty bodies and special procedures was essential in guiding States as they addressed the human rights challenges that they faced.

72. Mexico agreed that the current global challenges required global solutions and it was necessary for States and other key actors to work together to defend the pillars of the United Nations. It was fundamental for States to hold constructive debates which would allow them to tackle the human rights challenges faced by humanity.

73. Mexico wished to know how States could strengthen the links between human rights, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Our Common Agenda.

74. **Mr. Hamamoto** (Japan) said that universal values should be respected in every country and the protection of human rights was the basic responsibility of all countries.

75. Japan had spoken out against serious violations of human rights and had promoted the voluntary efforts of each country through dialogue and cooperation, while taking specific circumstances into consideration. Japan therefore wished to know how OHCHR would work with individual Member States in that regard.

76. **Mr. Kuzmenkov** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation was concerned by the use of human rights for political and economic leverage against out-of-favour Governments, and even rivals. In order to achieve their aims, Western States, especially the United States, deliberately brought human rights situations to the brink of collapse, actively applying unilateral coercive measures, promoting hate speech on the pretext of protecting the freedom of expression and conducting aggressive disinformation campaigns. Even at the current meeting, various delegations had besmirched the name of the Russian Federation. Latvia, in particular, had done so even though it was itself carrying out a disgraceful campaign against monuments to those who had liberated it from fascist German occupiers and was also launching campaigns to stop children from speaking their native Russian language. The United States, for its part, had levelled absurd and groundless accusations against China regarding activities in

Xinjiang. Unfortunately, unwarranted and unobjective information in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had helped to spread those untruthful accusations. The Russian Federation condemned all attempts by the West to interfere in the domestic affairs of China and of other countries conducting independent domestic policies, such as Belarus.

77. In that context, the role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was more important and necessary than ever as an independent and unbiased representative of human rights. The Russian Federation therefore hoped that the newly elected High Commissioner would react to the source of human rights violations rather than to their consequences and stood ready to cooperate with him constructively and in a way that would benefit all parties.

78. **Ms. Ochoa Espinales** (Nicaragua) said that dialogue and cooperation were the best tools for resolving any situation and required respect for the internal affairs of States, without external intervention and pressures or the conditioning or politicization of human rights.

79. In that regard, Nicaragua supported the efforts by China to protect its territorial integrity and sovereignty. It opposed interference in the internal affairs of China and the politicization of intergovernmental and multilateral platforms.

80. Nicaragua supported the implementation by China of the “one country, two systems” policy in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the measures adopted to guarantee the system’s stability and longevity.

81. **Mr. Pascual** (Chile) said that Chile could testify to the important work done by OHCHR, which had offered assistance to Chile in legislative and constitutional processes, as well as in the recent preparation of its latest periodic report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

82. It was essential to support the work of OHCHR in strategic elements such as non-retrogression with respect to gender relations and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Focus should be paid to the impact of new technologies on human rights and emerging topics. The COVID-19 pandemic had brought pre-existing situations to light which needed to be addressed in multilateral forums.

83. Mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders needed to be strengthened and the work of OHCHR could contribute to implementing a normative framework for human rights defenders.

84. In supporting the Office and its mandates, States should ensure that it had sufficient funding.

85. The proposed predictable schedule for treaty bodies was welcome and would help to avoid worsening the delays to their work caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He asked what the schedule would look like and how States could contribute to it.

86. It was important to promote an integrated recommendations system to facilitate the work of Committees and States by improving transparency and accessibility for civil society. The present period offered the opportunity to evaluate the impact of the Human Rights Council and other relevant infrastructure. States should examine how they could improve the effectiveness and impact of the Council in protecting human rights, especially with regard to difficult topics.

87. **Ms. Bukuru** (United Kingdom) said that the 2022 OHCHR assessment of human rights concerns in the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region had been a thorough, objective and independent report, which had confirmed fears that crimes against humanity might be taking place. The findings of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine regarding the human rights impacts of the brutal aggression by Russia against Ukraine had also made for horrifying reading.

88. She asked how States could support the work of OHCHR to ensure that it was best able to hold all States to account.

89. **Mr. Kim Nam Hyok** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that human rights issues should be addressed through the promotion of international cooperation and constructive dialogue on a fair and equal basis.

90. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea rejected all attempts to politicize human rights and abuse them as instruments of intervention against sovereign States. It also opposed the ongoing proliferation of mandates and mechanisms against specific countries.

91. In that connection, the recent OHCHR assessment of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region was regrettable as the issue was an internal matter for China. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea reiterated its support for the position of China in defending its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity. It also appreciated the efforts and achievements by China in the field of human rights and its contribution to international human rights cooperation.

92. **Ms. Almeheid** (Saudi Arabia) said that her country supported the efforts of the international community to ensure an effective recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Saudi Arabia welcomed the efforts undertaken to build bridges among different regional and international organizations. It was important to strengthen multilateralism in order to face future shocks and crises. In that context, Saudi Arabia stood ready to cooperate with all United Nations human rights mechanisms and to shoulder its obligations under various instruments. The country had made great strides in the promotion of human rights in general and women's rights in particular, in line with the country's constitution, religious values and cultural specificities.

93. Saudi Arabia welcomed the efforts of the Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry and urged the international community to provide the latter with capacity-building and technical support. Saudi Arabia welcomed the adoption by the Human Rights Council of resolution [51/39](#) on technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights. The only way to put an end to the crisis and the suffering of the Yemeni people was through a political solution in accordance with international law and the relevant Security Council resolutions, notably resolution [2216 \(2015\)](#), and international and regional initiatives. Saudi Arabia condemned the practices of the Houthis, whose intransigence had scuttled the extension of the ceasefire, exacerbating the humanitarian situation and aggravating the suffering of the Yemeni people. Saudi Arabia called for constructive dialogue and a rejection of the politicized and selective practices that sought to transform the United Nations into a platform for ideological and political agendas and for legitimizing false claims.

94. **Mr. Dai Bing** (China) said that the promotion and protection of human rights required the shared responsibility of the international community. The human rights deliberations for each country must be based on its own national conditions and the needs of its people. China did not accept condescending lectures on human rights issues and opposed the politicization and double standards of human rights issues. The United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Canada and other Western countries had pointed the finger at developing countries while turning a blind eye to their own human rights records, revealing their political agenda in using human rights as a pretext to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Those hypocritical countries were in fact the biggest saboteurs of international human rights cooperation.

95. The so-called assessment of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region by OHCHR did not have a legal

mandate, the consent of the countries concerned or facts to support its claims. As such, it was illegal and invalid. The assessment was very different to the assessment made by the previous United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights following a visit to China and had been hastily released just before the High Commissioner had left office. The assessment was a perverse product of the coercive diplomacy by the United States and other Western countries. The rejection by the Human Rights Council of a draft resolution related to Xinjiang and its refusal to recognize the assessment by OHCHR was a victory for facts and truth and for other developing countries.

96. Hong Kong was gaining new life as an international financial centre and the “one country, two systems” policy had gained momentum. China was advancing on all human rights front and the attempt by the United States to derail China would fail. The United States and other countries should address their own poor human rights records, which included the genocide of Indigenous Peoples, systematic racial discrimination, police brutality against ethnic minorities and unilateral coercive measures against developing countries.

97. In order to gain the trust of the international community, OHCHR should conduct investigations and release relevant reports in order to hold the United States accountable for its human rights violations.

98. **Mr. Khaopaseuth** (Lao People’s Democratic Republic) said that his country highly valued constructive engagement and a dialogue-based approach in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the principles of non-confrontation, non-politicization and non-selectivity.

99. The Lao People’s Democratic Republic appreciated the cooperation and willingness shown by the Government of China in welcoming the visit of the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region. It commended the achievements of China in eradicating extreme poverty, introducing universal health care and universal unemployment insurance, protecting the economic and social rights of women and children and strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights in the country. Issues related to Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Tibet were the internal affairs of China.

100. Unilateral and politicized approaches to resolving human rights issues were contrary to the principle of the Charter of the United Nations and would bring only confrontation and division.

101. **Mr. González Behmaras** (Cuba) said that the promotion and protection of human rights should be

guided by the principles of impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity and a spirit of dialogue and cooperation. However, punitive approaches, selective practices and double standards continued to be applied in the field of human rights. The limited resources of OHCHR should not be used for such practices or to advance ideas which Member States had not agreed upon.

102. OHCHR should increase its focus on bringing to light the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures. Such measures were a violation of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, continued to be applied unscrupulously and often became worse in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

103. The economic, financial and commercial blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States for more than six decades was not only a massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people but also prevented Cuba from accessing the necessary resources to advance the promotion and protection of human rights. It was the primary obstacle to the country’s economic and social development. Cuba therefore wished to know the opinion of the Assistant Secretary-General on what OHCHR could do to tackle the impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights in affected countries.

104. **Mr. Ahmed** (Libya) said that his delegation appreciated the efforts of OHCHR to promote and protect human rights. In her presentation, the Assistant Secretary-General had noted the importance of the cooperation and of technical support provided by OHCHR and had mentioned that the Office had signed memorandums of understanding with various countries. He asked what standards had been put in place by OHCHR for the provision of technical assistance to States: was such assistance provided at the request of the States themselves or did the Office make a determination that such assistance was required?

105. **Mr. Altarsha** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that some countries continued to politicize human rights issues, engage in political hypocrisy and promote an approach that distorted the humanitarian crisis in several countries, including Syria. His delegation viewed national reports that targeted specific countries and not others as politicized and a violation of human rights. Furthermore, it was strange that many countries neglected to mention what was taking place in Afghanistan, Libya and elsewhere. Even stranger was the absence of any mention of human rights violations connected to the blockade against Cuba.

106. His delegation rejected the allegations and accusations made in the statements of the European Union and other Western countries against the People’s

Republic of China in an attempt to interfere in that country's internal affairs and undermine its efforts to protect its sovereignty and territorial integrity. His delegation also rejected the accusations made against the Russian Federation and condemned the continuous provocations against Russian people living in Russian-speaking areas. Syria had the right to confront foreign occupation, notably that of the so-called international coalition, and illegal foreign interference in Syrian affairs.

107. His delegation echoed the question asked by the delegation of Cuba regarding unilateral coercive measures, which were imposed on his country as well as on Iran, Korea and others.

108. **Ms. Bouchikhi** (Morocco) said that Morocco was grateful for the support received from OHCHR during the universal periodic review cycle. The universal periodic review was a unique process and as it began its fourth cycle in November 2022, Morocco, in collaboration with OHCHR, would organize an event on the issues of supporting Member States during the universal periodic review and commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

109. Morocco welcomed the attention given by OHCHR to the question of human rights in digital space. It was an extremely important question, given the spread of the Internet and new communication technologies. Morocco also welcomed the work of OHCHR in promoting the right to education and making it more visible within the United Nations system.

110. **Mr. Lamce** (Albania) said that Albania was deeply concerned about the human rights situation as a result of the aggression by Russia.

111. Human rights were and should be a valuable set of tools for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. Human rights information should play a great role in common efforts to develop early warning mechanisms; early action in massive human rights violations should be taken seriously.

112. Albania supported the calls of the Secretary-General for greater coherence between the three pillars of the United Nations as an important part of his prevention agenda.

113. He wished to know more about the efforts of OHCHR to mainstream the use of human rights information in the discourse of conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping. He also asked how cooperation between Geneva and New York could be strengthened in that regard.

114. **Mr. Balouji** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country had always interacted and cooperated with international mechanisms and had held several specialized meetings in recent years in order to further interact with OHCHR.

115. The invitation extended to the Special Rapporteur on unilateral coercive measures to visit Iran was emblematic of the country's commitment to cooperation and its transparent and constructive approach to human rights mechanisms. The findings of the Special Rapporteur had highlighted the need for the international community to take a responsible and committed approach toward those States imposing unilateral coercive measures, especially the United States.

116. Further consideration of human rights issues should take into account the principles of universality, transparency, impartiality, non-selectivity, non-politicization and objectivity. In that connection, Iran categorically rejected the so-called resolution on the human rights situation in the country and any resulting mandates. Iran also condemned the interventions of the United States in the internal affairs of independent States under the guise of protecting human rights.

117. **Ms. Rizk** (Egypt) said that her delegation welcomed the mainstreaming of the right to development as both an individual and collective right.

118. It was important to address both the positive and negative impacts of new digital technologies as they related to human rights.

119. Although Egypt adhered to the principle of non-discrimination, it was important that the work of OHCHR remained committed to and in conformity with internationally agreed human rights and refrained from expanding the matter to cover new categories, which could lead to the fragmentation of human rights.

120. She wished to know the Assistant Secretary-General's views on whether the financing dedicated to the work of OHCHR on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development was sufficient.

121. **Mr. Messaad** (Algeria) said that his country affirmed its commitment to protecting human rights and respecting its obligations under international human rights law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments. Algeria remained committed to supporting the Human Rights Council as the body competent to consider human rights situations in States in a manner that was comprehensive and conducive to fostering trust. That competence should be respected and double standards should be avoided when

it came to human rights issues. Algeria reiterated the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in accordance with the needs of the States concerned. Moreover, the complementarity of national, regional and international human rights mechanisms should be strengthened. His delegation asked the Assistant Secretary-General to elaborate on the efforts of OHCHR in the area of capacity-building, especially in developing countries.

122. **Mr. Phann** (Cambodia) said that the promotion and encouragement of human rights must adhere to the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Human rights shortcomings should be addressed through promotion rather than protection; through technical assistance and capacity-building rather than by naming, shaming and politicization.

123. Cambodia supported discourse grounded on facts and diligent assessments of each country based on objectivity, non-selectivity and non-politicization. It was firmly opposed to groundless accusations made against States and interference in internal affairs under the pretext of human rights.

124. Cambodia commended China for its promotion of human rights by adhering to a people-centred approach and appreciated its contribution to the international human rights cause.

125. **Ms. Gonzalez** (Costa Rica) said that OHCHR had played a great role in the recent universal recognition of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and in the fight against systematic racism.

126. Following its recent election to the Human Rights Council, Costa Rica looked forward to working with the Council and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the progressive advancement of human rights.

127. She asked what the priorities of OHCHR would be for the coming months. How did the Office envisage the advancement of human rights in the context of the digital era?

128. **Mr. Balobaid** (Yemen) said that his Government affirmed its commitment to all human rights in accordance with Yemeni and international law and in a manner in line with the country's Arab and Islamic identity. It welcomed Human Rights Council resolution [51/39](#), which stressed the importance of support and capacity-building for the National Commission of Inquiry. Yemen had strengthened its national mechanisms for monitoring and investigations, which had carried out fact-finding activities, investigated crimes and held accountable the perpetrators of violations, in contrast to international mechanisms,

which were often used as a political pretext for interfering in internal affairs. The Yemeni Government condemned the operations of the Houthi militias, which had tortured and forcibly disappeared citizens, arrested the staff of civil society organizations, planted landmines in populated areas and perpetrated sexual violence. Yemen called on the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to condemn those violations.

129. **Ms. Brands Kehris** (Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York), speaking via video link, said that there was a natural link between the human rights pillar and the other pillars of peace and security and sustainable development. For example, OHCHR worked to promote all rights and to combat inequalities, which contributed to the prevention of conflict and social tensions, and it also had initiatives which directly supported the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights was a unique opportunity for the United Nations system and Member States to strengthen coherence and collaboration between the pillars. OHCHR was engaged in strengthening links between them and, as such, supported the Secretary-General's prevention agenda as well as the Agenda for Protection.

130. OHCHR had strengthened its strategic partnership with the Peacebuilding Commission and was also engaging further with the Security Council, providing human rights information, analysis and data to inform the decisions of the Council and help it to fulfil its mandate. However, the cooperation between the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, as well as the incorporation of information and expertise into existing mechanisms, could be strengthened further.

131. Turning to questions regarding Our Common Agenda, she said that the centrality of human rights and the direct link to the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights should be emphasized. OHCHR strived to maximize synergy between the Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda and the Office had contributed to United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in several countries, analysing gaps in those frameworks, how human rights were incorporated and how such work could be improved. The most important aspect was how that work translated to the field and, as such, OHCHR was focusing on country-level impacts.

132. OHCHR continuously worked to improve and facilitate access to information for human rights mechanisms through training for country teams,

country-level analysis and mapping of the work of the whole United Nations system. Our Common Agenda included ensuring the coherence of all parts of the United Nations. OHCHR worked with other entities to respond to the Secretary-General's call for a new social contract and to the Declaration on Future Generations. Many delegations had mentioned pushback against human rights, but the Summit of the Future would be a unique opportunity to reinvigorate human rights support and to mobilize together.

133. As noted by some delegations, OHCHR continued to be underfunded. The Office was focused on implementing an extended management plan for the period 2022–2023, but support from all regions would be needed. The rapid growth in the number and scope of mandated activities had not been matched by an increase in budget allocation, owing to politically motivated or other obstacles. Funding was important in order to support mandates and to implement the tasks given to OHCHR. Our Common Agenda provided an opportunity to push to increase the budget assigned to OHCHR.

134. Funding for the human rights mechanisms was needed and had been included in both the Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda. The Chairs of the treaty bodies had agreed to a predictable eight-year review cycle and other streamlined working methods, but their backlog of cases would require sufficient resources in order to be addressed. OHCHR was working out operational details to that effect, including costing, and the support of Member States in ensuring sufficient resources would be essential.

135. OHCHR had implemented strategies and measures to increase equitable geographical representation, resulting in increased participation by African and East European groups. Programmes, such as a young professionals programme, and a diversity and inclusion strategy were in place to improve geographical representation internally, including in recruitment methods; a more robust accountability framework would help to ensure follow up on such measures.

136. The question of transitional justice was lengthy and complex. The most successful examples of transitional justice had been context-specific and had focused on the needs and rights of victims while ensuring a comprehensive approach. Such positive examples could be seen in Colombia and the Gambia, where truth commissions had released their final reports and road maps with the planned follow-up and the full endorsement of Governments. Unfortunately, owing to ongoing conflicts, there would be many more situations in which transitional justice mechanisms would be

needed. Transitional justice had links to accountability and was a fundamental issue and priority for OHCHR.

137. OHCHR continued to support accountability in various ways and engaged directly with international accountability mechanisms. Support and questions from Member States on the topic would help the Office to ensure that accountability remained a priority.

138. OHCHR had expressed concerns about the consequences of unilateral coercive measures for the enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights. The Office had raised those issues with the concerned parties and continued to follow the matter closely. When measures affected entire populations, it was the most vulnerable members who were most directly affected, which led to human rights concerns or even violations. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had called for the easing of sanctions to enable medical assistance in the fight against COVID-19 and OHCHR had advocated for humanitarian exemptions to sanctions. Economic, social and cultural rights should be taken into account when sanctions regimes were being designed, so that their impact could be considered from the outset.

139. The demand for funding for economic, social and cultural rights far exceeded current capacity. More attention had been paid to such rights because of the inequalities highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic and funding therefore needed to be strengthened.

140. OHCHR focused on tackling obstacles to the realization of the right to development through financial support, advocacy for debt relief, measures to control financial flow, outreach to activists and civil society organizations and interagency cooperation. South-South cooperation was important and efforts would be made to achieve it. OHCHR would advocate for the right to development in trade and investment agreements, as well as in the implementation of such agreements.

141. It was necessary to tackle the inequalities highlighted in recent years. The regression in many of the Sustainable Development Goals was an obstacle to development and needed to be intensely worked on. The human rights dimension of the Goals was clear and could be tackled through the multilateral dimension of Our Common Agenda, finding common solutions and establishing the required guidance. An inter-agency review had provided evidence-based analysis for the integration of human rights in the United Nations development systems, which would be important in ensuring that the link between human rights and the Goals was included in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks at the country

level. OHCHR had engaged in the high-level political forum on sustainable development and had contributed a knowledge exchange booklet for the countries submitting national voluntary reviews in 2022. The surge initiative on the ground was aimed at supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and OHCHR had provided assistance to some 50 United Nations country projects.

142. Questions regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons were a priority for OHCHR and the Office was working closely with the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. As part of its Free and Equal campaign, OHCHR had carried out awareness-raising and had provided expertise and technical advice. During the universal periodic review, 140 Member States had made commitments to tackle violence and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Although much remained to be done in that respect, OHCHR would continue to support such work.

143. In addressing issues related to new digital technologies, it was necessary to involve civil society and stakeholders, including technology companies. The positive effects of technology should be developed, but the negative effects needed to be addressed. As part of a technology project, OHCHR was working with businesses to make sure that guidance was adapted for technology companies and implemented properly.

144. The monitoring and reporting of human rights violations was an essential part of addressing the situation in specific countries. Sometimes the verification process was such that it took time to acquire full information during ongoing conflicts, giving the impression that such cases were underreported. It was necessary for Member States to appeal for full, unimpeded access for OHCHR, as it helped in work done on the ground. There were new mandates for the human rights situation in Russia and others, which would be fulfilled as best as possible, and independent mandates would also be fully supported.

145. It was essential that the situation in Myanmar was not dropped from any human rights agendas and OHCHR stood ready to gather relevant information and express its serious concerns with regularity. Potential repatriations to Myanmar could only happen when the conditions were ready for voluntary and dignified returns. All the mechanisms and dialogues in place to that end should be encouraged.

146. OHCHR was glad to engage with China to advance human rights in the country. The visit of the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

had included a discussion at the highest level and had opened channels for further dialogue and cooperation. The Office hoped to engage with China regarding the recommendations made in the assessment of the Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region.

147. There were many concerns regarding Haiti. For countries mentioned under many other agenda items, it was important to provide support for the missions mandated by the Security Council. To that end, OHCHR was ready to do its part and provide evidence and technical capacity-building. OHCHR was open to any requests by Member States to forge technical cooperation and capacity-building and continued to expand the list of countries with which it had a memorandums of understanding.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.