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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Mauritius* and Panama*: draft resolution

56/... Accelerating progress towards preventing adolescent girls' pregnancy

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and recalling other relevant instruments of international human rights law,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also that States have the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance,

Deeply concerned that, every year, 1.5 out of every 1,000 women who give birth are girls aged 10–14 years and that more than 21 million girls and women aged 15 to 19 years become pregnant, with approximately 50 per cent of those pregnancies being unintended, resulting in an estimated 12 million births, which profoundly affect the lives of girls and their children, especially those in situations of vulnerability and marginalization, and noting with concern the unavailability of reliable data on the number of girls becoming pregnant at younger ages,

Expressing profound concern that adolescent pregnancy may have major mental and physical health consequences for adolescent girls and their children, including higher risks of preventable maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity, severe neonatal conditions, eclampsia, puerperal endometritis, systemic infections and obstetric fistula,

Noting with deep concern that pregnant adolescent girls face social and economic consequences, inter alia, stigmatization, discrimination, pressure to drop out of school,

* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.



inability to continue with and complete their education, and unpaid care and support and domestic work responsibilities, which limit their future educational and employment opportunities and economic empowerment and their ability to participate in public affairs and perpetuate intergenerational cycles of poverty, with negative impacts for adolescent girls themselves, their families, communities and societies,

Recognizing that the drivers of adolescent girls' pregnancy may include factors such as poverty, social exclusion, gender inequality, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, peer pressure, child, early and forced marriage and unions, sexual and gender-based violence, sexual harassment, limited equal access to quality and inclusive education and to safe school environments, including a lack of water, sanitation and hygiene, limited access to gender- and age-responsive, disability-inclusive and affordable health-care services, education and information, including for sexual and reproductive health, that are free from violence, coercion, stigma and discrimination, inadequate social protection measures and inequalities within and among countries,

Recognizing also that school closures, armed conflict, public health emergencies and climate and humanitarian emergencies may also be among the factors that exacerbate adolescent girls' pregnancy,

Stressing the need for States to strengthen their national strategies, policies and programmes, in line with human rights instruments, in order to prevent adolescent girls' pregnancy by considering social protection measures, increasing resources and investment in adolescent girls' rights, including through gender-responsive budget allocations, and supporting their re-entry into education, thus preventing school dropout, and emphasizing in this regard the importance of adolescent girls' full, equal and meaningful participation, empowerment and leadership,

Convinced that increased political will and commitment, international cooperation and technical assistance at all levels, in particular for developing countries, and other measures to support the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the achievement of sustainable development, such as development partnerships and debt relief, will contribute positively to accelerating progress towards preventing adolescent girls' pregnancy,

1. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international and regional organizations, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, national human rights institutions and civil society, including women's organizations, youth-led organizations and adolescent girls, a comprehensive report on how to accelerate progress towards preventing adolescent girls' pregnancy and to present the report, in a format that is child-friendly and accessible to persons with disabilities, to the Council at its sixty-second session;

2. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.
