



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council Fifty-eighth session

### Summary record of the 56th meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 3 April 2025, at 10 a.m.

*President:* Mr. Lauber ..... (Switzerland)

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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 (*continued*)

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

**Agenda item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development** (*continued*)  
([A/HRC/58/L.7](#), [A/HRC/58/L.12](#), [A/HRC/58/L.13](#), [A/HRC/58/L.14](#),  
[A/HRC/58/L.24/Rev.1](#), [A/HRC/58/L.29](#) and [A/HRC/58/L.33](#))

*Draft resolution [A/HRC/58/L.7](#): Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights*

1. **Mr. Mira Gomes** (Observer for Portugal), introducing the draft resolution, said that about 3.5 billion individuals, over half of them children, were currently living in conditions of profound economic vulnerability. The financing gap for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals was estimated at \$2.5 trillion to \$4 trillion annually. Many countries were trapped by debt servicing commitments and found themselves unable to fund essential public services, provide social protection or address climate change. Recognizing that stark reality, and building upon the commitments of the Pact for the Future, the draft resolution affirmed the importance of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights for eradicating poverty and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The text recalled that the Sustainable Development Goals encompassed a broad spectrum of issues related to economic, social and cultural rights and that human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were interrelated and mutually reinforcing. It identified the mobilization of development finance as a priority; called for equitable access to essential services, the promotion of efficient and progressive taxation policies and the creation of decent jobs; and underscored that commitments arising from debt should not impede States' abilities to respect human rights. The draft resolution also called upon States to secure ambitious outcomes at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development, both of which would be held later in 2025. It requested the Council to convene a panel discussion to reflect on the outcomes of the two events and to explore how public resources could be mobilized in a manner consistent with States' human rights obligations. A report on the same topic would subsequently be prepared and submitted to the Council.

2. Regarding the amendment that had been proposed, his delegation failed to see a connection between unilateral coercive measures and the promotion of human rights. Indeed, discussion of such measures diverted attention from the reason for imposing legal sanctions, namely, to deter States from committing grave human rights violations. The draft resolution was intended to be more than a declaratory text. His delegation hoped that it would lead to concrete steps to support financing for development and social development, and was confident that all members of the Council shared the same objective.

3. **Ms. Micael** (Observer for Eritrea), introducing the proposed amendment contained in document [A/HRC/58/L.33](#) on behalf of the main sponsors, said that it was regrettable that the main sponsor of the draft resolution had not addressed the repeated calls for the inclusion of language on unilateral coercive measures. For the many countries that were negatively impacted by the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, it was crucial that language addressing the issue should be incorporated into the text. It was clear that most of the States that were opposed to the inclusion of such language were taking a political approach to human rights, and in many cases were the very States implementing the unlawful measures.

4. A resolution that emphasized the right of all individuals to enjoy economic, social and cultural rights should address deliberate action that hindered the realization of those rights. For that reason, her delegation and others had proposed an amendment consisting in the insertion of verbatim language taken from paragraph 30 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed upon by all Member States. The aim of the proposed amendment was to emphasize the challenges faced by citizens of States subject to unilateral coercive measures. There was widespread evidence in United Nations documents of the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures and of the difficulties faced by individuals and populations in targeted States. Those facts could not be denied and had to be taken seriously and acknowledged.

5. Unilateral coercive measures had a detrimental humanitarian impact that directly undermined economic, social and cultural rights. They were inconsistent with the obligation of States under article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the rights recognized in the Covenant. They led to poverty and unemployment, reduced access to food, healthcare and education and impeded participation in cultural life, thus violating articles 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15 of the Covenant. Moreover, they restricted access to essential goods, services and economic opportunities, disproportionately affecting vulnerable populations in the targeted States. Considering that the issue of unilateral coercive measures should be approached through a human rights lens, rather than a political one, she urged all members of the Council to vote in favour of the proposed amendment, and thus maintain the Council's integrity and consistency in its commitment to human rights.

6. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the sponsors of the draft resolution, said that the thematic focus of the text was financing for development. The proposed amendment would divert the discussion away from important substantive issues, such as poverty eradication, the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap, reform of the international financial architecture, unsustainable debt burdens, international tax cooperation and climate justice. Furthermore, his delegation was concerned that a narrative framing all unilateral measures as illegal was being used to draw attention away from the reasons for which sanctions were imposed, namely, to deter and censure States that committed grave human rights abuses and violations. While the Council could agree that States should refrain from adopting and implementing illegal unilateral measures, it was necessary to reject the fundamental misconception that all unilateral measures without distinction negatively impacted the enjoyment of human rights. The proposed amendment clearly sought to undermine the fulfilment of voluntarily assumed human rights obligations by permitting interpretations that could be used by States to evade their responsibilities.

7. Although the language of the proposed amendment had been taken from the 2030 Agenda, that did not mean that it was appropriate in the context. Indeed, at the current session, the Council had already discussed and adopted a resolution specifically devoted to the issue of unilateral coercive measures. Transferring that discussion to other contexts was unnecessary and would lead to duplication at a time when the Council was seeking to work more efficiently. Moreover, proposing an amendment to a broadly consensual draft resolution that did not relate directly to its subject matter was neither constructive nor efficient, especially as many other proposals had been omitted in order to preserve the coherence of the text. For those reasons, his delegation regretted the submission of the proposed amendment contained in document [A/HRC/58/L.33](#), would vote against it, and requested all other members of the Council to do the same.

8. **The President** said that 30 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$178,700. He invited the members of the Council to make general statements on the draft resolution and the proposed amendment.

9. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) said that the draft resolution recognized that the effective realization of economic, social and cultural rights required sustainable, adequate, accessible, transparent and predictable development finance. It highlighted the need to mobilize resources, enhance States' fiscal space and develop a more equitable international financial architecture as essential elements for States to fulfil their human rights obligations and progress towards genuine social justice. It underscored the interdependence of commitments made in the areas of human rights, financing for development and the sustainable development agenda, with the aim of improving the coherence of public policies and effectively advancing towards the full realization of all human rights for everyone without discrimination. For those reasons, and considering the importance of economic, social and cultural rights for building fair, sustainable and inclusive societies, her delegation had decided to sponsor the draft resolution and would vote against the proposed amendment. Adopting the draft resolution as it had been presented would reaffirm the Council's

commitment to all human rights – civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural – and to a human rights-based approach to development in which no one was left behind.

10. **Mr. Nkosi** (South Africa) said that the draft resolution's thematic focus on financing for development was particularly timely in the current challenging global context. Indeed, the draft resolution addressed the pertinent issue of unsustainable debt burdens, including excessive debt servicing costs, which redirected resources away from services that were essential for the realization and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. His delegation therefore considered that the draft resolution could make a significant contribution towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including those on the eradication of poverty and hunger and the reduction of inequalities. Its adoption by consensus would demonstrate that the Council recognized that a situation in which millions could not realize or enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights, while their lives were blighted by injustice and inequality, was not normal and could not continue.

11. Upcoming events such as the International Conference on Financing for Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the G-20 summit in Johannesburg would offer real opportunities to convert discussions into tangible actions. South Africa therefore appreciated the call for States to secure ambitious outcomes at those events in order to close financing gaps; to engage in a strengthened multilateral response to support countries with unsustainable debt burdens; and for financial institutions to support States in their efforts to build strong institutions. In the current context of the global polycrisis, it was more necessary than ever to embrace the principles of international cooperation and multilateralism in order to tackle uncertainty, escalating tensions and threats to growth and stability. In confronting those challenges, the international community could not neglect the realization and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. South Africa therefore supported the draft resolution and urged the Council to adopt it by consensus.

12. **Mr. Gunnarsson** (Iceland) said that the draft resolution rightly stated that the realization of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda were interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The world was facing immense challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Growing economic and financial disruptions worsened existing inequalities, and unsustainable debt burdens – particularly those of least developed countries and small island developing States – limited States' ability to invest in essential basic services such as healthcare, education, housing and social protection, all of which were crucial for the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights. The references in the draft resolution to closing the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap and to the reform of the international financial architecture were therefore welcome. The text also recognized that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development and the Second World Summit for Social Development would provide opportunities for decisive action. Iceland therefore supported the draft resolution and encouraged the Council to adopt it, without amendment, by consensus.

13. **Mr. Gallón** (Colombia) said that his delegation was pleased to again sponsor a resolution on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights. The draft resolution addressed several themes that would be taken up at the upcoming International Conference on Financing for Development and which the Council had discussed from a human rights perspective. They included the need for reform of the international financial architecture, the use of debt swaps for climate action and the negotiation of a convention on international tax cooperation – all of which were priorities for Colombia and should be the focus of joint efforts by the international community. In order to be successful, development finance mechanisms had to be targeted at the population groups most in need of support. Colombia was therefore grateful for the inclusion of peasants and other persons working in rural areas among the groups who should benefit from development finance, including through rural development strategies that reduced inequalities. Comprehensive agrarian reform, enabling equitable access to land ownership, could also contribute to achieving that goal. Colombia would vote against the proposed amendment, considering that it bore no relation to the draft resolution's thematic focus on financing for development. His delegation invited all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

14. **Mr. El Ouazzani** (Morocco) said that the theme of the draft resolution was both timely and relevant. The international community had agreed in many forums that no one should be left behind, yet an ongoing sustainable development crisis – the result of a combination of environmental, economic and social challenges – threatened the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the sustainable development financing gap was large and growing, with an estimated \$4 trillion in additional investment needed annually to meet the needs of developing countries. An urgent, large-scale and sustainable investment push was needed. The International Conference on Financing for Development and the World Summit for Social Development indeed presented a unique opportunity to bring about a coherent transformation of financing. The Second World Summit for Social Development, which was being co-facilitated by Morocco and Belgium, had been convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/261 in order to address gaps, recommit to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action and give momentum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A better international approach to development finance would contribute to social justice, social development and the dignity of all.

15. **Mr. Espinosa Olivera** (Mexico) said that the Government of Mexico had introduced several social programmes in order to combat poverty and ensure the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights as a matter of priority. His delegation was grateful for the inclusion in the draft resolution of a preambular paragraph which recognized the importance of the universality and indivisibility of all human rights and of robust and efficient public policies for the realization of all economic, social and cultural rights, including for women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, Indigenous Peoples and peasants and other persons working in rural areas.

16. As financing for development was a crucial tool for carrying out priority social projects and for reducing structural gaps, it was necessary that it should have a human rights-based perspective. In that regard, the draft resolution recognized that further reform of the international financial architecture was an important step in mobilizing additional resources, particularly in developing countries, to uphold economic, social and cultural rights, and that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development Conference would present an opportunity to take transformative measures to advance the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. For the aforementioned reasons, Mexico had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution. His delegation regretted the presentation of a hostile amendment and respectfully called upon all member States to reject the proposed amendment and adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

17. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union that were members of the Council, said that the world faced significant challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. For example, unsustainable debt burdens hindered States' ability to invest in essential services such as healthcare, education, housing and social protection. By adopting the Pact for the Future, States had committed to placing poverty eradication at the centre of their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda; to closing the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap in developing countries; and to accelerating reform of the international financial architecture to mobilize additional financing for the Sustainable Development Goals, respond to the needs of developing countries and direct financing to those most in need. The draft resolution emphasized the importance of addressing those issues, while highlighting States' obligations to respect, protect and fulfil economic, social, and cultural rights and the need to strengthen States' multilateral response to implement the commitments of the Pact for the Future.

18. The European Union deeply regretted the proposal of the amendment contained in document [A/HRC/58/L.33](#), which alluded to unilateral measures. The European Union maintained that there was a clear distinction between unilateral coercive measures and European Union sanctions and was concerned that the narrative labelling any autonomous sanctions as illegal unilateral coercive measures was often used to divert attention from the reasons for which sanctions had been imposed, namely, to deter grave human rights violations and abuses. While States should certainly refrain from adopting and implementing illegal unilateral measures, it was necessary to reject the misconception that all unilateral measures were contrary to international law and negatively impacted the enjoyment of human

rights. The States members of the European Union that were members of the Council supported the draft resolution, would vote against the proposed amendment and called on the other members of the Council to do the same.

19. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that the topic of financing for development was related to structural barriers and the promotion and protection of human rights. His delegation appreciated the reference in the draft resolution to the Pact for the Future and the commitments contained therein, which presented challenges but also opportunities for innovation, cooperation and the promotion of inclusive sustainable development based on human rights. The draft resolution recalled that human rights were universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, as had been agreed by consensus in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. However, despite the inclusion of a reference to the adverse impacts of climate change, the text failed to address the issues of biodiversity loss and pollution and did not include an explicit reference to the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. The global triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution hindered the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, exacerbated many of the challenges facing the international financial architecture and could undermine progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The draft resolution encouraged States to take specific measures to achieve social protection financing targets and to eradicate poverty by addressing it in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty and the feminization of poverty. The text also promoted the exchange of best practices to mobilize public resources to finance sustainable development in a manner consistent with States' obligations. His delegation expressed its full support for the text as drafted by the main sponsor and encouraged all members of the Council to vote against the proposed amendment.

20. **Mr. Eisa** (Sudan) said that the draft resolution touched on important issues, particularly for least developed countries. His delegation was grateful to the sponsors of the proposed amendment, which was fully in line with the letter and the spirit of the draft resolution. Indeed, the proposed amendment strengthened the text, insofar as it took account of the adverse impact of unilateral coercive measures on countries, including Sudan, that were already suffering from dire socioeconomic situations. Sanctions could lead to the withholding of support and financing for programmes and projects, and of debt service support, and could have an impact on humanitarian work. In some cases, students had been denied access to grants and training opportunities. Sudan therefore supported the proposed amendment and called on the Council to adopt it by consensus.

21. **Ms. Hysi** (Albania) said that the realization of economic, social and cultural rights was essential for building just, equitable and democratic societies, contributing to sustainable development and ensuring human dignity and equality for all. All States had an obligation to respect, protect and fulfil economic, social and cultural rights and to strengthen their legal frameworks to ensure the full realization of those rights. The draft resolution, which Albania had sponsored, represented a renewed commitment to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, with a special focus on financing for development. Her delegation supported the text as it was currently drafted, would vote against the proposed amendment, and called upon the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

22. **Ms. Too** (Kenya) said that her delegation welcomed the thematic focus of the draft resolution and, in particular, its reference to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and its forward-looking perspective on the implementation of the Pact of the Future. It also welcomed the inclusion of some of its proposals, in particular the emphasis on the intertwined issues of financing for development, climate finance and sustainability, which must be addressed holistically in order to achieve meaningful progress. Climate-vulnerable nations such as Kenya faced a dual crisis of escalating debt and devastating climate impacts. Resources that were desperately needed to invest in climate adaptation and mitigation were being diverted to debt servicing, resulting in a vicious circle in which climate impacts exacerbated debt and debt prevented the State from building resilience, undermining the right to development. For that reason, the topic of financing for development could not be addressed without recognizing the critical role of climate finance. The draft resolution rightly stressed the urgent need for scaled-up climate finance in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate

Change and the Paris Agreement in order to support adaptation and mitigation measures and to address loss and damage. It also acknowledged the transformative role of technology in advancing economic, social and cultural rights. Her delegation believed that the draft resolution provided a valuable framework for States to adopt adequate policies and programmes and to allocate sufficient resources to ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights for all; it therefore called for its adoption by consensus.

23. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that developing countries had been battered by successive crises, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the slowdown of the world economy, ongoing conflicts, the rising level and cost of external debt and shrinking fiscal space. In addition, years of backtracking on development had been highly detrimental to least developed countries, which were now spending twice as much on debt servicing as they did on health. In order to reverse such backtracking and to address the threat of a cascading polycrisis, it was necessary to reform the rules and practices of the international financial architecture. A foreign debt workout mechanism, based on the participation of all developing countries, needed to be established. There was also an urgent need to increase official development assistance. Special drawing rights should be used on a larger scale and in a fair and sustainable manner, and greater leveraging of multilateral capital could better support the developing countries through comprehensive social programmes. His delegation hoped that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development would result in concrete action, including in respect of the reform of the international financial architecture, debt service restructuring, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and enhanced concessional financing. Bangladesh supported the thematic focus of the draft resolution on financing for development, and had joined its sponsors. The delegation invited the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

24. **Ms. Li Xiaomei** (China) said that her delegation recognized that financing for development was a priority for developing countries and, having participated constructively in the consultations, would join the consensus on the draft resolution. Nevertheless, China considered that unilateral coercive measures hindered the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and that the text should reflect the position of all parties. As a multilateral body, the Council should focus on all human rights and promote them equally, taking into account the views of all countries, particularly developing countries. It should also place greater emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. Her delegation hoped that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other multilateral bodies would take the necessary measures to meet the aspirations of all countries and to enhance the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, particularly among vulnerable groups.

25. **The President** invited the Council to take action on the proposed amendment contained in document [A/HRC/58/L.33](#).

*Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting*

26. **Mr. Sterk** (Bulgaria) said that the draft resolution, which was aligned with the 2030 Agenda, underscored the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfil economic, social and cultural rights. It also highlighted the need to strengthen multilateral cooperation in order to meet the commitments outlined in the Pact for the Future, with a particular emphasis on financing for development. Furthermore, it addressed key issues, including poverty eradication, the Sustainable Development Goal financing gap, reform of the international financial architecture, unsustainable debt burdens, international tax cooperation and climate justice. Given that context, the proposed amendment would divert the focus of the draft resolution, as the issue of unilateral coercive measures was not directly linked to its core subject matter. The proposal to amend an otherwise broadly consensual resolution was neither constructive nor efficient. To maintain the coherence of the draft resolution, his delegation would vote against the proposed amendment and encouraged all members of the Council to do likewise.

27. **Mr. Oike** (Japan) said that, although unilateral economic, financial or trade measures, or unilateral coercive measures, were clearly of concern to some countries, his delegation did not support the proposed amendment because the relationship between such measures and human rights, a divisive topic, had already been considered in another resolution at the



current session. What was more, the adoption of the proposed amendment would hinder efforts to ensure that economic, social and cultural rights were realized in all countries. In addition, no reference to human rights was made in the text of the proposed amendment, and as a result the approach taken in the proposed amendment was, in his delegation's view, incompatible with the Council's human rights functions. For those reasons, his delegation would vote against the proposed amendment.

28. **Ms. Gillhoff** (Germany) said that the regrettable introduction of the proposed amendment clearly undermined the broad, cross-regional support for the draft resolution. The aim of the proposed amendment was to raise the spectre of what were often referred to as unilateral coercive measures. The approach taken by the sponsors of the proposed amendment was objectionable first because it implied erroneously that all unilateral measures were illegal. All European Union decisions to impose sanctions were made in compliance with international law, and provision was made for both legal remedies for affected persons and exceptions on humanitarian grounds. Sanctions imposed by the European Union were designed to protect human rights, not to violate them. Her delegation's second reason for its objection to the proposed amendment was the drafters' misleading use of language taken from the 2030 Agenda. That language, which had been carefully negotiated, did not in fact appear verbatim in the proposed amendment. Her delegation would therefore vote against the proposed amendment.

29. **Ms. Cabrera Brasero** (Spain) said that the protection and promotion of human rights, which were universal and indivisible, reinforced the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The theme of the draft resolution – a human rights-based approach to financing for development – was thus particularly welcome, and that theme, which was complex, was the clear focus of the text. The introduction of a proposed amendment, on a subject that had been specifically addressed in another resolution, was therefore regrettable. There was no need for the subject of that resolution to be considered in other resolutions. The Council had to work more effectively, and the proposal of an amendment not directly related to the topic of a text on which consensus had been reached would not help it do so. Other issues, too, had been left out of the draft resolution. For that reason, her delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution without the proposed amendment, which she urged the States members of the Council to vote against.

30. **Mr. Bekkers** (Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that the number of States – more than 65 – that had sponsored the draft resolution attested to the openness with which the negotiations on the text, which was strong but balanced, had been conducted. The introduction of the proposed amendment was a hostile attempt to incorporate an issue, unilateral coercive measures, that was irrelevant to financing for development and that, as others had noted, was considered in another resolution. More broadly, the aim of the discourse favoured by some delegations was to divert attention from the purpose of sanctions, which were imposed, often as a last resort, to prevent grave human rights violations and abuses. Misleading assertions about the purpose of sanctions were made in a bid to undermine the legitimacy of the reasons for which they had been imposed. In the light of those considerations, his delegation would vote against the proposed amendment and urged other delegations to do likewise.

31. **Ms. Neocleous** (Cyprus), noting that her delegation, too, found the introduction of the proposed amendment regrettable, said that, although her country did not maintain an autonomous sanctions list, it observed the international sanctions imposed by the Security Council and took the restrictive measures adopted by the Council of the European Union. There was a clear difference between unilateral coercive measures and sanctions such as those imposed by the European Union. Attempts to suggest otherwise were often a means of drawing attention away from the reasons for their imposition. States should, of course, refrain from adopting and enforcing unlawful unilateral measures, but the notion that all unilateral measures violated international law or undermined human rights was misleading. The theme of the draft resolution was unrelated to unilateral coercive measures, a topic more appropriate for other contexts, in particular the resolution that had been adopted the previous day. Her delegation would thus vote against the proposed amendment and called on other delegations to do the same.



32. *At the request of the representative of Costa Rica, a recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Cuba, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Sudan, Thailand.

*Against:*

Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, Germany, Iceland, Japan, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Romania, Spain, Switzerland.

*Abstaining:*

Bangladesh, Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, South Africa.

33. *The proposed amendment contained in document [A/HRC/58/L.33](#) was rejected by 24 votes to 9, with 13 abstentions.*

34. **The President** invited the Council to take action on draft resolution [A/HRC/58/L.7](#).

35. **Mr. Benítez Verson** (Cuba), speaking in explanation of position before the decision, said that a balanced approach in which economic, social and cultural rights were accorded the importance they merited should be taken to human rights issues. While the focus of the draft resolution on creating new synergies between the realization of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was welcome, the efforts being made to realize the right to development should have been emphasized more heavily. The major obstacles to the realization of human rights, including unilateral coercive measures, faced by many developing countries should not have been disregarded or downplayed, either. Since the proposed amendment contained a reference to the need to eliminate such measures, his delegation had voted in favour of it.

36. His delegation welcomed the call made in the draft resolution for States to respect, protect and fulfil all economic, social and cultural rights by strengthening legal frameworks, adopting adequate policies and programmes and allocating sufficient resources for their implementation. It welcomed, too, the emphasis in the text on financing for development, capacity-building, technology transfer, technical assistance and international cooperation, all of which were priorities for developing countries, and its acknowledgement of the importance of both fulfilling official development assistance commitments and pursuing further reform of the international financial architecture. Despite the shortcomings of the draft resolution, then, his delegation would join the consensus on it.

37. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/58/L.7](#) was adopted.*

*Draft resolution [A/HRC/58/L.12](#): Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the right to food*

38. **Mr. Benítez Verson** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, said that its purpose was to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food for an additional three years. Regrettably, 735 million of the world's people faced chronic hunger, 130 million more than in 2015, and 30 per cent of the world's population, nearly 400 million more people than in 2019, was affected by moderate or severe food insecurity. Sustainable Development Goal 2 – zero hunger – was clearly out of reach. At bottom, hunger and malnutrition, which chiefly affected the people of the global South, were caused not by a lack of food, of which there was plenty, but by unequal access thereto. That inequality, for its part, had structural causes related to the unjust international order. The renewal of and support for the mandate were of particular importance against that backdrop. He therefore hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

39. **The President** announced that 40 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, the programme budget implications of which amounted to \$401,100.

*General statements made before the decision*

40. **Mr. Da Silva Nunes** (Brazil) said that, despite decades of international efforts, large numbers of people were either undernourished or faced moderate to severe food insecurity, a situation that demonstrated the urgent need to enhance global responses. The Special Rapporteur had made commendable efforts to identify the structural causes of hunger and malnutrition and advocate for sustainable and resilient food systems. The renewal of the mandate would ensure the continuity of those and other related efforts, reinforcing the centrality of the right to food. The aim of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, which his country had launched in 2024, was to accelerate progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2. The Alliance, whose focus on fostering cooperation by Governments, international organizations and multilateral financial institutions was complementary to the work of the Special Rapporteur, would make it possible to scale up initiatives, including school meal programmes, rural development and nutrition-sensitive social protection, that had proved effective. His delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution and encouraged the Special Rapporteur to continue engaging with States in a spirit of constructive dialogue and cooperation.

41. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh), welcoming the inclusion in the draft resolution of most of the changes that his delegation had proposed, said that inequality, food insecurity, declining ecosystem productivity and climate change intersected. The agricultural productivity of climate-vulnerable developing countries fell in tandem with the occurrence of climatic events such as floods and droughts. Indirectly, it was affected by the excessive use of pesticides and other chemicals, sea-level rises and coastal salinity intrusion. The work of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, particularly in addressing the root causes of growing food insecurity and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights for all, was of great value. His delegation therefore supported the renewal of the mandate for an additional three years and urged the States members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

42. **Mr. Céspedes Gómez** (Costa Rica) said that his delegation appreciated the opportunity to reaffirm his country's commitment to the right to food, a human right critical to human dignity and well-being. In a context of biodiversity loss, climate change, economic instability, public health emergencies and other interrelated crises, efforts to guarantee food security and proper nutrition should be made a priority. The draft resolution contained a welcome focus on the importance of addressing the current challenges in respect of food security. Also welcome was its acknowledgement of the important role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, institutions with which all States should cooperate. His delegation would have welcomed an explicit mention of the importance of taking a human rights-based approach, key to guiding the international community's efforts to combat hunger and malnutrition and to strengthening cooperation, to the issue of food security. In any event, the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, with which his country was ready to cooperate, would make it possible to ensure the continuity of the Special Rapporteur's work. His delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution.

43. **Mr. Antwi** (Ghana), noting that the right to food was a fundamental human right, said that ensuring food security and access to adequate nutrition remained crucial, particularly in a context in which no country was immune to economic headwinds and the devastating effects of climate change. His delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution, in which the international commitment to strengthening food systems and promoting sustainable agriculture was reaffirmed, not only as a vital step in reinforcing international cooperation and solidarity in combating hunger but also as a pathway to fast-track progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2. In an expression of their shared commitment to strengthening resilience for food security and ensuring that human rights and the right to food remained a priority, all States members of the Council should support the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food.

44. **Mr. Daka** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation fully supported the draft resolution and recognized the critical importance of the right to food, which was not just a fundamental human right but also a key component of broader human rights, including the right to health, development and a dignified life. It also supported the request made in the draft resolution for the Special Rapporteur to enhance engagement with the newly established Food Systems

Advisory Group of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub, in particular as such enhanced engagement was a critical opportunity to align food systems governance with international human rights law and the 2030 Agenda. All stakeholders should engage in the process to help ensure that food systems were resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

45. The continued focus of the draft resolution on food security, finance and national action plans was commendable, as the integration of those three dimensions was vital to the development of strategies to address food security. The emphasis placed on cooperation by States, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector was also commendable. Such cooperation was key to developing inclusive, durable solutions to food insecurity. As food insecurity was a global challenge, it was essential for the work of the Special Rapporteur to be reinforced through enhanced international cooperation and financial support. All the resources necessary for the fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur should, as requested in the draft resolution, be provided. His delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

46. **Ms. Macdonal Alvarez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia), noting that women and children were the most severely affected of the hundreds of millions of people worldwide who had gone hungry in 2023, said that severe malnutrition had worsened in particular in rural areas and in areas with large numbers of people displaced by conflict or natural disasters. Her delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution with a view to combating food insecurity, strengthening traditional agricultural systems and encouraging equitable access to food. Her delegation welcomed the request for the Special Rapporteur, who should continue collaborating with the Working Group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, to enhance engagement with the Food Systems Advisory Group of the United Nations Food Systems Coordination Hub. Her delegation hoped that, as with previous resolutions on the same topic, the Council would adopt it by consensus.

47. **Mr. Alhayen** (Kuwait) said that his delegation fully supported the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, a mandate that, in view of the unprecedented increase in food insecurity, was becoming increasingly important. Food insecurity was a life-threatening matter that, as shown in Gaza and elsewhere in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, touched on the right to life. Using access to food as weapon of war was a heinous crime. The role of the Special Rapporteur remained essential. States members of the Council should adopt the draft resolution and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur. The right to food, after all, was a fundamental human right.

48. **Ms. Cabrera Brasero** (Spain) said that her delegation supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, a right related to all other human rights, and welcomed the presentation of the draft resolution on the renewal of the mandate. Spain promoted international cooperation with a view to eradicating hunger. The numbers, however, were discouraging. Since February 2025, a representative of her country, together with a counterpart from Brazil, had chaired the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty. Objectives in that context included improving governance, mobilizing resources and involving women in major decisions on food and nutrition.

49. **Ms. González Nicasio** (Dominican Republic) said that her delegation strongly supported the renewal of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur. The right to food, which was a key component of the right to a decent standard of living, was intrinsically linked to other fundamental rights. Her delegation welcomed the focus of the text on the interrelated crises States faced in their attempts to safeguard the right to food. The food security of the Dominican Republic, an island developing State, was particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The call for the Special Rapporteur to help shape food systems governance in line with international human rights law was thus of great interest to her delegation. Her country had put in place policies to achieve food sovereignty and security, but international cooperation based on fairness, inclusion and climate justice was still needed. The international human rights system needed effective mechanisms to help States ensure the progressive realization of the right to food. Her delegation encouraged the States members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

50. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/58/L.12](#) was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.13: Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity*

51. **Mr. Benítez Verson** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution, said that, as reaffirmed in the text, cultural rights were an integral part of human rights. Cultural diversity did not undermine universal values; on the contrary, it strengthened them. Respect for such diversity was, in addition, critical to the protection of cultural rights. It made it possible to build bridges between peoples. Intercultural dialogue, which contributed to peace and social stability, fostered mutual understanding. The draft resolution was, in essence, an attempt by the Council to send a message of respect and unity. His delegation thanked the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights for her approach to her work as well as the delegations and the civil society organizations that had contributed to the preparation of the draft resolution. He hoped that the Council would adopt it by consensus.

52. **The President** said that 28 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

*General statements made before the decision*

53. **Mr. Espinosa Olivera** (Mexico) said that his delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution, which contained technical updates to previous resolutions on the same subject. By adopting the draft resolution, the Council would continue strengthening the framework for the protection of cultural rights. He welcomed the call upon all States to respect, promote, protect and fulfil cultural rights.

54. **Mr. Daka** (Ethiopia), said that the draft resolution was a reaffirmation of a collective commitment to promoting the enjoyment of cultural rights and respecting cultural diversity as a fundamental human right. The text's emphasis on the essential role of education in promoting cultural rights and fostering respect for cultural diversity was especially welcome. In his country, which supported the call for all States to respect, promote, protect and fulfil cultural rights, the power of education to enhance mutual understanding, tolerance and respect for diversity had long been recognized. In line with the draft resolution, Ethiopia was committed to ensuring that cultural rights contributed to building a more inclusive and equitable society where all individuals could enjoy their cultural heritage while embracing the diversity of others. All States members of the Council should join the consensus on the draft resolution and thus demonstrate their commitment to supporting efforts that contributed to the global dialogue on the significance of cultural rights.

55. **Mr. Jiang Han** (China), noting that his delegation supported the draft resolution, said that cultural rights, which should be promoted and protected, were basic human rights. His country promoted the development of cultural industries and fully guaranteed its people's cultural rights. In recent years, it had also improved legislation touching on cultural matters, strengthened the construction of public cultural infrastructure, increased investment in poverty-stricken and ethnic minority areas and enhanced the protection of cultural heritage. The world, which was currently beset by multiple, interrelated crises, was entering a new period of turbulence and change. Accordingly, his delegation welcomed the reference in the draft resolution to the General Assembly resolution in which 10 June had been declared the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations.

56. *Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.13 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.14: Effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights*

57. **Mr. Benítez Verson** (Cuba), introducing the draft resolution, said that the aim of the text was to highlight the impact of foreign debt on the realization of human rights. It was indisputable that debt relief measures were needed to ease the debt burden that was hindering national development efforts in many countries. The draft resolution emphasized the importance of addressing the issue through action involving not only States but also international financial institutions, corporations and private creditors. It also recognized the need to intensify multilateral efforts towards reform of the international financial architecture. The constructive involvement of States and civil society organizations in the

consultations on the draft resolution had made it possible to identify multiple areas in which opinions converged. It was regrettable that, despite the evidence available, some developed countries still did not recognize the impact of foreign debt on the realization of human rights and the relevance of the issue to the work of the Human Rights Council. His delegation hoped that, at a future session of the Council, those countries would reconsider their position and participate in discussions on the matter in good faith. Reiterating its commitment to strengthening multilateralism and seeking common solutions to global problems, his delegation called on the members of the Council to vote in favour of the draft resolution, if it was put to a vote.

58. **The President** announced that 12 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had no programme budget implications.

*General statements made before the voting*

59. **Ms. Too** (Kenya), welcoming the draft resolution, said that it came at a critical juncture when many nations, including Kenya, were striving to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals but were increasingly hampered by unsustainable debt burdens that directly affected their ability to invest in essential services and further the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. Her delegation particularly appreciated the way in which the draft resolution framed debt as a human rights issue, emphasizing its impact on vulnerable groups. It was grateful for the inclusion of its proposal concerning the importance of leveraging climate finance to address both debt burdens and climate-related challenges. The fact that African countries had been expected to spend more on debt service in 2024 than all climate finance pledges combined was a stain on international cooperation. The issue was not simply a matter of economics – it was a matter of justice. Her delegation called for urgent and comprehensive debt relief measures, including debt cancellation, to alleviate the burden. It wished to emphasize the importance of fair and effective taxation systems and the need for greater international cooperation to combat the illicit financial flows that deprived African countries of vital resources. The draft resolution was an opportunity to develop a collective approach to those fundamental concerns. Her delegation called on the members of the Council to adopt it by consensus.

60. **Mr. Bladehane** (Algeria) said that the draft resolution drew attention to an alarming truth, namely that foreign debt was a major obstacle to sustainable development, poverty reduction and the full realization of fundamental rights. Many developing countries found themselves trapped in a cycle of chronic debt overhang that drastically limited their ability to invest in key sectors and forced them to use a considerable proportion of national resources for debt servicing, to the detriment of people's well-being. The situation was exacerbated by high interest rates and restrictive repayment conditions, which hampered developing countries' efforts to achieve inclusive economic growth. As a gesture of solidarity, Algeria had cancelled the debt of several countries in economic difficulty, enabling them to redirect their resources towards priority sectors and achieve their development objectives. Debt should not be an obstacle to development, but rather a tool for human progress. His delegation fully supported the draft resolution and called on all members of the Council to do likewise.

61. **Mr. Daka** (Ethiopia) said that the draft resolution emphasized the importance of comprehensive debt relief, international cooperation and systemic reforms in the global financial architecture. It underscored that foreign debt and international financial obligations were not merely economic issues; they were fundamental human rights concerns. Policies and frameworks governing global financial relations must respect the sovereignty of States and their capacity to fulfil the needs of their people. A well-structured international financial system was paramount to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations and ensuring the realization of economic, social and cultural rights globally. His delegation urged the members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

62. **Ms. Macdonal Alvarez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that humanity was facing multiple, interrelated global crises, including a synchronized economic recession. Growing inequalities around the world were accelerating social exclusion and directly affecting vulnerable groups such as women, children, and persons with disabilities. The authoritarian implementation of structural adjustment policies and economic reforms based on an unfair system was forcing countries to reduce public spending and hindering national development

efforts. The draft resolution promoted integrated and sustainable approaches to reforming the international financial architecture, as well as measures that would enable countries to invest in their long-term development. Her delegation called on the members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus. If it was put to a vote, her delegation would vote in favour of it.

63. **Ms. Tsheole** (South Africa) said that her delegation believed that the Council was most certainly the right forum in which to forge consensus on collective action to build a resilient, sustainable and equal global environment. For nations to flourish, equality and prosperity must be made available to everyone. The draft resolution made a small but significant contribution towards that end. The focus of the draft resolution also tallied with her country's priority of debt restructuring during its presidency of the Group of 20. Her delegation fully supported the Council's continuous efforts to mitigate the effects of foreign debt on developing countries and shared the concerns expressed in the draft resolution. South Africa believed in the universality and interdependence of human rights and the importance of promoting those rights in a fair and equitable manner.

*Statements made in explanation of vote before the voting*

64. **Mr. Oike** (Japan) said that his delegation was concerned that the draft resolution might allow Governments to use the burden of foreign debt as a pretext for evading their obligations to promote human rights. While it understood the importance of the issues raised in the draft resolution, it believed that the Council was not the appropriate forum for addressing those issues and that the draft resolution fell outside the scope of the Council's mandate. For those reasons, his delegation wished to call for a vote on the draft resolution and intended to vote against it.

65. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union that were members of the Council, said that the Union remained concerned about the high level of debt vulnerability faced by some countries and was committed to improving existing frameworks, building on the work of relevant institutions such as the International Monetary Fund. The European Union welcomed the ongoing efforts to build more inclusive and effective international financial institutions that were better equipped to respond to the needs of developing countries in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It believed that the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development would be a unique opportunity to make progress on the issue of refinancing. Adequate financial resources were fundamental to the fulfilment of human rights obligations, and the European Union strongly believed in the importance of building a human rights-based economy. Discussions in the Council helped to place human rights at the centre of multilateral reform, but the Council was not the appropriate forum for addressing substantive issues relating to debt sustainability. The European Union firmly believed that the primary responsibility for protecting human rights lay with States and that economic circumstances could not be invoked by States to shirk that responsibility and to justify violations of human rights. The European Union appreciated the constructive approach of the delegation of Cuba to the informal consultations on the draft resolution and reiterated its commitment to maintaining a dialogue on the important issues raised therein. Nevertheless, it could not support the draft resolution.

66. **Mr. Espinosa Olivera** (Mexico) said that his delegation recognized that the draft resolution addressed an issue that was of great importance to many developing countries. However, it considered that some parts of the draft resolution fell outside the scope of the Council's mandate and that the draft resolution should not contain language that appeared to make compliance with human rights obligations conditional upon the availability of economic resources. For those reasons, his delegation would abstain from voting on the draft resolution. Nevertheless, it acknowledged the efforts of the delegation of Cuba to build consensus and would continue to support those efforts.

67. **Mr. Céspedes Gómez** (Costa Rica) said that, although his delegation agreed that debt relief could facilitate sustainable development, it firmly believed that the protection of human rights ultimately depended on the will of States, their transparency and the strength of their institutions. Many countries had made significant progress in that area despite complex economic contexts, while others had wasted resources on military capabilities instead of

investing in human rights. While foreign debt could be a source of problems, it could not serve as justification for human rights violations, as the draft resolution implied. Such a premise conflicted with the idea that human rights were universal, indivisible, interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The language on human rights in the draft resolution was not sufficiently precise. In particular, the statement that debt burden was a serious impediment to the realization of all human rights did not reflect the diversity of national realities. The international community should continue to seek ways to mitigate the impact of foreign debt on sustainable development while keeping in mind that the realization of human rights was, above all, the responsibility of States, and that States must strive to promote good governance, take responsibility for their debts and implement economically sustainable policies.

68. **Mr. Gunnarsson** (Iceland) said that his delegation recognized that the growing debt burden had a negative impact on the realization of human rights. Nevertheless, economic circumstances should not be used by any State as an excuse for failing to respect and protect human rights. The United Nations had adopted various tools and initiatives to support sovereign debt restructuring, including the Basic Principles on Sovereign Debt Restructuring Processes. Efforts in that area should not only be sustainable from a macroeconomic perspective but should also promote inclusive economic growth and sustainable development while minimizing economic and social costs and preserving human rights. While his delegation appreciated the constructive cooperation of the delegation of Cuba during the informal consultations on the draft resolution, it considered that the Council was not the appropriate forum for dealing with the issue of debt sustainability and would therefore abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

69. *At the request of the representative of Japan, a recorded vote was taken.*

*In favour:*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Qatar, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

Albania, Bulgaria, Czechia, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), North Macedonia, Republic of Korea, Romania, Switzerland.

*Abstaining:*

Belgium, Cyprus, Georgia, Iceland, Mexico, Spain.

70. *Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.14 was adopted by 29 votes to 12, with 6 abstentions.*

*Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.24/Rev.1: Open-ended intergovernmental working group for the elaboration of a legally binding instrument on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons*

71. **Mr. Foradori** (Observer for Argentina), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely Brazil, the Gambia, the Philippines, Slovenia and his own delegation, said that the world was undergoing a profound demographic shift. Global life expectancy at birth had reached 73.3 years in 2024 and was projected to rise to 77.4 years by 2054. The proportion of the global population aged 65 years or over was projected to increase from 9.3 per cent in 2020 to approximately 16 per cent in 2050. There was broad support from the international community and civil society for the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons, as recommended by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. The draft resolution proposed the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental working group to pursue that goal. All Member States would be able to express their views and contribute to the work of the group through submissions and proposals. Civil society, especially older persons and their representative organizations, would also be encouraged to participate in the process. The intergovernmental working group would be established in honour of the tireless advocates of the rights of older persons at the United Nations who were now deceased. The main sponsors were grateful to all the



delegations that had contributed to the informal consultations on the draft resolution and hoped that the Council would adopt it by consensus.

72. **The President** announced that 22 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$985,200.

*General statements made before the decision*

73. **Ms. Rasheed** (Maldives) said that her delegation wished to reaffirm its support for the draft resolution, which marked a crucial step towards addressing long-standing gaps in the international human rights framework. Older persons continued to face discrimination, social exclusion and a lack of legal protection. The establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental working group to draft a convention would be a transformative step that could improve the lives of over 850 million people worldwide. Maldives stood ready to support efforts to build stronger legal protections for older persons while ensuring that their voices shaped the policies that affected them. Ageing should be seen not as a burden but as a stage of life that deserved respect.

74. **Mr. Espinosa Olivera** (Mexico) said that for more than 14 years, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing had been drawing attention to shortcomings in the international human rights framework in relation to older persons. Its recommendation concerning the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument to protect their rights had been endorsed by the General Assembly. His delegation had listened carefully to the concerns expressed by some delegations during the informal consultations on the draft resolution, including doubts about duplication of effort and budget constraints. However, it was clear from the findings of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing that a legally binding instrument was needed. If the Council failed to take action, the resources invested thus far would be wasted. Delays were costly, as they would result in the violation, restriction and even denial of the rights of older persons. His delegation therefore welcomed the draft resolution and urged all members of the Council to support it.

75. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that his country recognized that older persons were a vulnerable sector of the population and had taken many legislative and policy measures to protect and support them, including the establishment of a high-level national committee on the welfare of older persons and the introduction of robust social safety net programmes. Bangladesh had also demonstrated its commitment to improving the situation of older persons by hosting a country visit from the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. His delegation believed that the protection afforded to older persons by the international human rights framework should be strengthened. For that reason, it supported the draft resolution and invited all members of the Council to adopt it by consensus.

76. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) said that older persons faced multiple structural barriers, including ageism and ill-treatment, that hindered their enjoyment of their fundamental rights and freedoms. There was an urgent need to develop a specific and universal regulatory framework that would close the gaps in the international protection of older persons. Regulatory fragmentation and the lack of a binding instrument in that area had resulted in a failure to effectively address the intersectional discrimination that affected older persons, especially women, persons with disabilities and migrants. The draft resolution paved the way for the development of a legal instrument that would establish clear obligations for States, promote inclusive environments and establish effective monitoring mechanisms. Chile called on the members of the Council to support the draft resolution, which represented a decisive step towards ensuring the dignity, autonomy and inclusion of older persons.

77. **Mr. Antwi** (Ghana) said that his delegation was pleased to support the draft resolution and urged the other members of the Council to adopt it by consensus. Given that ageing was inevitable for everyone, it was important to embrace every initiative that sought to strengthen mechanisms for upholding the dignity and rights of older persons nationally, regionally and globally. Ghana was doing its utmost to promote the well-being of older persons through, for example, its national policy on ageing. It had strengthened its legal framework to protect older persons from neglect, abuse and exploitation. The elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on the protection of the rights of older persons would complement and

enhance its efforts at the national level by establishing clear international standards that took into account the specific needs of older persons, without duplicating existing frameworks.

78. **Ms. Neocleous** (Cyprus) said that the development of a comprehensive international instrument on the human rights of older persons had been identified as the most effective way to address the significant gaps in international and national legal frameworks in that area. Codifying the rights of older persons and identifying the specific challenges related to ageing would help to empower and protect older persons. A dedicated treaty would help to combat ageism and to preserve the dignity and autonomy of older persons. The draft resolution envisaged a transparent and inclusive State-led process to elaborate such an instrument. The involvement of all relevant stakeholders throughout the process was crucial to achieving a diverse, representative and impactful outcome. Her delegation supported the draft resolution and called on the Council to adopt it by consensus.

79. **Ms. Cabrera Brasero** (Spain) said that, as the life expectancy of the world's population continued to increase, it was essential to create a society that valued the contribution of older persons, ensured their full participation in public life and decision-making processes, promoted intergenerational solidarity and equity, and put an end to ageism. Spain was committed to that goal, as was borne out by its National Human Rights Plan 2023–2027. Her delegation welcomed the proposal to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to draft a legally binding instrument on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons, which must be effective and help to bring about a tangible improvement in their situation, and urged the members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

80. **Mr. Marenah** (Gambia) said that, regrettably, many older persons remained unprotected, overlooked in national policies and disproportionately affected in times of crisis. At the regional level, the Gambia was guided by the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa, which demonstrated how a framework rooted in solidarity, care and justice for older persons could be both visionary and actionable. The establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental working group with a mandate to begin discussions on a legally binding instrument for the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons would address a long-standing gap in the international human rights architecture and represent a practical step towards building a better world for older persons. The draft resolution did not, however, prejudge the content of the proposed instrument; rather its aim was to create a space for inclusive, State-led dialogue on how best to strengthen protection for older persons. His delegation called on all members of the Council to support that initiative and to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

81. **Mr. Alhayen** (Kuwait), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, said that the Gulf Cooperation Council attached special importance to protecting older persons and to helping them to face the challenges of ageing. The States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council believed that establishing an open-ended intergovernmental working group to draft an international legally binding instrument would build on the considerable work carried out in recent years and pave the way for enhancing the existing legal framework for the protection and promotion of the rights of older persons. He hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus and that the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council could play a constructive role in the process of establishing the working group.

82. **Mr. Da Silva Nunes** (Brazil) said that the world's growing ageing population was facing a plethora of challenges, such as abuse, poverty and inadequate access to healthcare and social protection. Brazil had long championed the rights of older persons, both within the Council by, for example, helping to create the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and at home, by adopting progressive legislation and national policies. Brazil recognized the need to adopt an international legally binding instrument that promoted the dignity, well-being, autonomy and full participation of older persons in society and supported the initiative to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to discuss the elements that such an instrument might contain. His delegation called on all members of the Council to support the establishment of the working group.

83. **Ms. Too** (Kenya) said that, domestically, Kenya had made significant strides in establishing legal and policy frameworks to support older persons. Specific rights and protections for those persons were enshrined in the Constitution and set out in the National Policy on Older Persons and Ageing and Kenyan social protection law. Kenya fully supported the objectives of the draft resolution and its call for the development of an international legally binding instrument to address the gaps and systemic inequalities faced by older persons globally. Her delegation particularly appreciated the text's emphasis on addressing the multiple and aggravated forms of discrimination suffered by that population group and on ensuring the meaningful participation of older persons in efforts to promote and protect their rights. Kenya pledged to support the work of the open-ended intergovernmental working group and to provide technical expertise in drafting the instrument in question.

84. **Mr. Gallón** (Colombia) said that, as had been pointed out by the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, there were numerous gaps in the protection afforded to the human rights of older persons, including in areas such as equality, protection against violence, autonomy and independence, care and social protection, employment, healthcare, and participation in public life and decision-making processes. The adoption of an international legally binding instrument had rightly been identified as the best way to ensure the promotion and protection of the rights of that population group, and the Human Rights Council the ideal forum for the development of such an instrument. His delegation invited all the members of the Council to join the consensus on the draft resolution.

85. **Mr. Bilali** (North Macedonia) said that, despite the significant efforts made by Governments, United Nations bodies and civil society organizations to increase awareness of age-related issues, older persons remained one of the most overlooked and underserved groups in the global human rights framework, experiencing discrimination, abuse, neglect and poverty. His delegation agreed that a coherent, comprehensive and integrated human rights framework for older persons – in the form of an international legally binding instrument – was the most effective way to better promote, protect and guarantee their human rights. The proposal to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group with a clear mandate to draft such an instrument represented a significant step forward. His delegation supported the draft resolution and called on all members of the Council to adopt it by consensus.

86. **Mr. Daka** (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia supported the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental working group to develop an international legally binding instrument on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons. The involvement of States, civil society, older persons themselves and other relevant actors in that exercise was key to ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to safeguarding the rights of that population group. In developing the instrument, account should be taken of the diverse needs and circumstances of older persons across all regions, including those living in developing countries where access to social services and healthcare was limited, and the views of older persons and their representative organizations. Ethiopia supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus and looked forward to contributing to the work of the working group.

87. **Ms. Hysi** (Albania) said that, despite their valuable contribution to society, older persons faced numerous challenges, ranging from discrimination and neglect to inadequate healthcare and social support, poverty and violence, and encountered significant barriers that prevented them from fully exercising their rights. The draft resolution under consideration was a crucial step towards building a solid, comprehensive framework to promote and protect the human rights of older persons. An international legally binding instrument developed through a transparent and inclusive State-led process would help to ensure that their rights, dignity and well-being were protected. Contributions from national human rights institutions and civil society would also be welcome. Her delegation called on all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

88. **Ms. Berananda** (Thailand) said that the world's growing ageing population required the international community to rethink its approach to protecting and promoting the human rights of older persons. At the national level, Thailand had enacted legislation and established a specialized government department to safeguard the rights and well-being of those persons. However, it noted with concern that gaps persisted in the protection afforded to the rights of that population group under international human rights law. Those gaps must be addressed

more proactively. The proposal to establish an open-ended intergovernmental working group to draft a legally binding instrument on the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons represented a meaningful and timely opportunity to advance respect for their rights worldwide. Her delegation hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

89. **Mr. García López** (Dominican Republic) said that, in many regions of the world, the already vulnerable situation of older persons was often exacerbated by inequality, ageism, poverty and social exclusion. The rapid pace at which the world's population was ageing called for urgent action to ensure that older persons were not left unprotected. The adoption of an international legally binding instrument would offer a historic opportunity to close normative gaps and to ensure a coherent and universal legal framework for the recognition and protection of the rights of that population group. His delegation invited all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

90. **Mr. Sultanov** (Kyrgyzstan), speaking on behalf of the members of the Organization of Turkic States – Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan and his own country – said that, traditionally, the Turkic peoples had always respected older persons and believed that doing so was not only their duty but also a means of ensuring stable and comprehensive social development. The Human Rights Council had already made significant progress in guaranteeing the rights of vulnerable groups. The Organization of Turkic States was grateful to the main sponsors for having drawn the Council's attention to the human rights situation of older persons and hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

91. **Mr. Benítez Verson** (Cuba) said that population ageing was a challenge for a great many countries, including Cuba. Moreover, the shortages caused by the intensified economic embargo imposed by the United States of America were taking a heavy toll on older adults in the country. Cuba had been an active participant in the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and had supported decision 14/1 by which the Working Group had identified possible gaps in the protection afforded to the human rights of older persons and how best to address them. The 11 recommendations set out in that decision should be implemented using a balanced and comprehensive approach. Efforts to advance the implementation of specific recommendations should not undermine the implementation of others. His delegation supported the adoption of an international legally binding instrument to address existing gaps and to promote and protect the rights, dignity and well-being of older persons and would actively participate in the work of the proposed open-ended intergovernmental working group.

*Statements made in explanation of position before the decision*

92. **Ms. Li Xiaomei** (China) said that China attached great importance to safeguarding the rights of older persons and had taken steps to respond to population ageing at the national level. Regrettably, the draft resolution under consideration failed to reflect in a balanced way the views of all parties. The proposed legally binding international instrument on the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons should be drafted through a State-led process. However, consensus had not yet been reached on whether developing such an instrument was the best way to proceed. That question warranted further discussion. If the draft resolution was adopted and an open-ended intergovernmental working group was established, it must conduct its work in strict accordance with its mandate. As currently worded, paragraph 7 of the draft resolution failed to explicitly reflect General Assembly resolution 60/251, by which the Human Rights Council had been established, and the principles regarding the participation of non-governmental organizations established in Council resolution 5/1. China could not, therefore, join the consensus on paragraph 7.

93. **Mr. Oike** (Japan) said that Japan had one of the world's most rapidly ageing populations and had taken steps to address the associated challenges through various laws and policy measures. His delegation called for a cautious approach with respect to the draft resolution, as the drafting of an international legally binding instrument to promote and protect the human rights of older persons was but one of the 11 recommendations set out in decision 14/1 of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Prioritizing that recommendation over the others might lead to the broader discussions within the Working

Group being overlooked. The financial crisis currently engulfing the United Nations system would also likely affect intergovernmental legal initiatives such as the one being proposed. The financial implications of setting up new human rights mechanisms, such as the open-ended intergovernmental working group referred to in the draft resolution, should also be given careful consideration. Furthermore, it was crucial to enhance the implementation of existing international instruments aimed at safeguarding the rights of older persons, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002, before adopting additional instruments. His delegation appreciated the willingness of the main sponsors and other delegations to listen to and address its concerns. While it continued to harbour some concerns in relation to the draft resolution, his delegation acknowledged the strong calls made by many stakeholders for the Council to take practical steps to protect the rights of older persons. Japan would therefore join the consensus on the draft resolution.

94. *Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.24/Rev.1 was adopted.*

*Draft resolution A/HRC/58/L.29: Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*

95. **Mr. Espinosa Olivera** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution, said that the main objective of the draft resolution, which was procedural in nature, was to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism for a period of three years, with the same terms as provided for by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 49/10. He wished to draw attention to paragraph 2, which acknowledged the participation of the Special Rapporteur in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, created in 2018. It would be desirable for the Special Rapporteur, who was already a member of the Compact, to be able to conduct relevant work in person in New York on a more regular basis. The wording of paragraph 6 had also been adjusted to make clear the need for the Special Rapporteur to be provided with sufficient and predictable human resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate. The aim of that adjustment was to ensure that the Special Rapporteur would have the same human resources available to them as other special procedure mandate holders. The language of the draft resolution was the result of extensive consultations. While his delegation would have preferred to use stronger language to ensure that the needs of the mandate holder were met, its priority was to maintain both the consensus and the level of acceptance that had existed vis-à-vis the mandate of the Special Rapporteur over the previous two decades. He hoped that the draft resolution could be adopted by consensus.

96. **The President** announced that 17 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$257,100.

*General statements made before the decision*

97. **Mr. Benítez Verson** (Cuba) said that the unilateral list drawn up by the Government of the United States that arbitrarily classified countries as sponsors of terrorism was a clear example of unacceptable politicization of the fight against terrorism. Cuba had been included on that list, which caused enormous economic and humanitarian damage, in flagrant violation of the human rights of Cubans. The existence of that unilateral list was contrary to the spirit of the draft resolution under consideration and had no legitimacy whatsoever. It made no contribution to legitimate international efforts to combat terrorism; on the contrary, it undermined them. Cuba was grateful to the various mandate holders who had made public statements calling for the country's removal from the unilateral list and the lifting of the criminal economic embargo in compliance with the 32 resolutions adopted in that connection by the General Assembly. Cuba continued to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and called on the Special Rapporteur to endorse the aforementioned statements and any similar statements that might be made in the future.

98. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union that were members of the Council, said that, on the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, the need for

comprehensive monitoring of States' compliance with their human rights obligations in the development and implementation of counter-terrorism policies and regulations remained as pressing as ever. The Special Rapporteur was still the only entity in the United Nations system tasked with reporting on counter-terrorism activities from a human rights perspective, and the mandate holder's continued involvement in international debates on that issue was essential. The European Union found it regrettable that some delegations had not been able to support the amendment aimed at providing the Special Rapporteur with the same resources as more recently established special procedure mandate holders. The European Union supported the proposal to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and called on other members of the Council to do the same.

99. **Ms. Arrous** (Algeria), speaking in explanation of position before the decision, said that Algeria firmly believed that terrorism remained one of the gravest threats to human rights and societies worldwide and condemned it in all its forms. Her country's commitment to combating terrorism, enhancing regional and international cooperation and raising awareness had preceded the emergence of major acts of international terrorism. Algeria had constantly emphasized the need to strengthen efforts to fight terrorism and violent extremism both regionally and globally. Her country had championed various initiatives at the regional level that had led to the adoption of key strategies and legal instruments. During its presidency of the Security Council, Algeria had organized an open debate on the theme "African-led and development-focused counter-terrorism: strengthening African leadership and implementation of counterterrorism initiatives". Moreover, the Counter-Terrorism Committee had adopted non-binding guiding principles on preventing, detecting and disrupting the use of new and emerging financial technologies for terrorist purposes, to be referred to as the Algeria Guiding Principles. While her delegation acknowledged the importance of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, it maintained that the mandate did not address terrorism holistically. It should focus not only on combating terrorism but also on addressing its root causes. Algeria considered that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy embodied a unified and comprehensive approach to countering that phenomenon and had always advocated for balance in Council discussions on terrorism and human rights, with a focus on the impact of terrorism on the human rights of victims. That vital aspect might usefully be included in future resolutions on the Special Rapporteur's mandate. Her delegation would nonetheless join the consensus on the draft resolution.

100. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/58/L.29](#) was adopted.*

*The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.*