



General Assembly

Distr.: General
12 August 2025

Original: English

Human Rights Council Fifty-ninth session

Summary record of the 32nd meeting

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Monday, 7 July 2025, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. Lauber (Switzerland)

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* Second reissue for technical reasons (18 August 2025).

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.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/59/L.15](#), [A/HRC/59/L.16](#), [A/HRC/59/L.18/Rev.1](#), [A/HRC/59/L.20](#),
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Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.15](#): Mandate of Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

1. **Mr. Wieland** (Observer for Austria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely Honduras, Uganda and his own delegation, said that the text provided for the renewal of a mandate that had contributed substantially to the protection of internally displaced persons and the prevention of displacement. Renewal of the mandate was crucial for ensuring that consideration of the human rights of internally displaced persons was mainstreamed across the United Nations system. The draft resolution included recognition of the fact that organized criminal activity, situations of occupation, biodiversity loss, pollution, desertification and the threat posed by explosive remnants of war contributed to new internal displacement and put additional pressure on host communities. It also reflected recent developments within the United Nations system in response to internal displacement, the time-bound catalytic efforts of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the link between the work of the Special Rapporteur and the follow-up mechanisms established at the end of the mandate of the Special Adviser. He trusted that the draft resolution, like previous similar resolutions, would be adopted by consensus.
2. **The President** announced that 24 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$822,900 for a three-year period.

General statements made before the decision

3. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that environmental factors such as biodiversity loss, pollution and desertification increased the number of internally displaced persons and directly affected their enjoyment of human rights, including the rights to housing, health, work and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Those factors degraded ecosystems and limited access to water, food and livelihoods. The causes of such degradation must be addressed from the perspectives of human rights and environmental justice. His delegation trusted that the Council would continue to deepen its understanding of how the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution affected the enjoyment of human rights. It encouraged the members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution without a vote.
4. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) said that the work of the Special Rapporteur had been decisive in advocating for the protection of the human rights of persons who, for various reasons, had been forced to move within the borders of their own country and in highlighting violations against them. The draft resolution placed special emphasis on the follow-up mechanisms established at the end of the mandate of the Special Adviser on Solutions to Internal Displacement and on the broader reform processes led by the Secretary-General. It highlighted the importance of inter-agency coordination of human rights and humanitarian support to States. By renewing the mandate, the Council would reaffirm its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. Her delegation called on States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.
5. **Mr. Gallón** (Colombia), noting that the *Global Report on Internal Displacement 2025* indicated that the total number of internally displaced persons had doubled since 2018, reaching a record high of more than 83 million people in 117 countries and territories by the end of 2024, said that Colombia was well acquainted with that challenging situation, as forced displacement had been one of the main consequences of the armed conflict in the country. Colombia had made progress in strengthening its durable solutions strategy, including the sustainable return, relocation and local integration of internally displaced persons. The renewal of the mandate of Special Rapporteur was vitally important for countries such as

Colombia, which continued to face challenges related to peace and security and durable solutions. His delegation thanked the main sponsors and would join the consensus on the draft resolution.

6. **Mr. Cabañas Vázquez** (Cuba) said that his delegation remained deeply concerned about the high number of internally displaced persons worldwide, which continued to grow rapidly as a result of armed conflict, violence, discrimination, systematic human rights violations, terrorism, climate change and natural disasters. In Cuba, the phenomenon was rare; cases of displacement within the country were due to extreme weather events such as hurricanes and tropical storms, and the Government had a strategy for upholding the rights of such persons. His delegation reiterated its support for the mandate of Special Rapporteur and the full implementation of the institution-building package of the Council and the Code of Conduct for Special Procedure Mandate Holders. Compliance with that Code was essential to preserving the Council's credibility, legitimacy and effectiveness.

7. **Mr. Simas Magalhães** (Brazil) said that his delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. However, in future resolutions, any references to United Nations resident coordinators and country teams should make it clear that they required the prior consent of the host Government to operate. His delegation had reservations regarding the reference to the concept of the "humanitarian reset", or the humanitarian reform process led by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, as that concept was still being developed and lacked a formal definition. Careful consideration should be given to its inclusion in future documents to avoid anticipating an international consensus that had yet to be reached. Brazil remained committed to advancing the protection of internally displaced persons with full respect for international human rights law.

8. **Ms. Popa** (Romania) said that her Government reaffirmed its long-standing support for the work of the Special Rapporteur. As the number of internally displaced persons continued to increase, the renewal of the mandate was all the more necessary. Her delegation welcomed the draft resolution's emphasis on voluntary, safe and dignified return and reintegration and durable solutions. Adopting a human rights-based and inclusive approach to addressing internal displacement was of utmost importance, and her delegation welcomed the specific attention paid to the needs and rights of women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. It supported the call to national authorities to adopt a conflict-sensitive approach to preventing internal displacement. Equally important was enhanced and coordinated international action that brought humanitarian, human rights, development and peacebuilding actors together with the aim of providing a comprehensive response. Her delegation welcomed the extension of the mandate of Special Rapporteur and invited all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

9. *Draft resolution A/HRC/59/L.15 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/HRC/59/L.16: Impact of arms transfers on human rights

10. **Mr. Chuquihuara Chil** (Observer for Peru), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely Ecuador and his own delegation, said that the draft resolution incorporated important elements from the recent reports of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the impact of arms transfers on human rights and the due diligence that private-sector companies involved in arms transfers must exercise. The direct impact of irresponsible arms transfers on the effective enjoyment of human rights demanded ongoing attention and a comprehensive approach. He called on members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

11. **The President** announced that 10 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$242,200.

General statements made before the decision

12. **Mr. Nkosi** (South Africa) said that the impact of arms transfers on human rights was particularly relevant to South Africans, given the country's shameful apartheid past. Despite the arms embargoes imposed during that period, the arms trade with the country had continued, helping to sustain the Government's pernicious policies, which the world had

decried as a crime against humanity. Accordingly, one of the key pieces of legislation promulgated early on in the country's democracy imposed strict controls on arms transfers. South Africa was now firmly committed to ensuring that its arms export control system met international standards. The rigorous procedures applied by the National Conventional Arms Control Committee in authorizing arms sales were a testament to the country's commitment to a transparent, responsible and human rights-based approach to arms transfers. Effective action was required to mitigate the negative impact of arms transfers on human rights. His delegation therefore called on members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus in order to stop the flow of arms and silence the guns.

13. **Ms. Méndez Escobar** (Mexico) said that thousands of people died every year as a result of unregulated transfers of arms. The lack of transparency and of access to information on arms transfers exacerbated their negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights. Her delegation called on States and companies to adopt measures that allowed arms to be traced from production to sale and transfer, based on due diligence obligations. Her delegation welcomed the request for OHCHR to conduct a study on the role of States and the private sector in preventing, addressing and mitigating the negative human rights impact of arms transfers. It trusted that the work of the Office would lead to the development of practical measures and guidelines to strengthen human rights due diligence in the arms sector. That was the only way to collectively stop the illegal cross-border flow of arms, which was causing so much suffering and death around the world.

14. **Mr. Cabañas Vázquez** (Cuba) said that his delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. Cuba reiterated its deep concern about the growing trend of increased arms transfers to areas of conflict. The draft resolution reaffirmed the responsibility of exporting States to assess the impact of arms transfers and the need for greater transparency and accountability in arms exports. Cuba did not manufacture or export arms. It rejected the double standard in the application of international law in that area, whereby multimillion-dollar arms exports leading to armed conflict, internal repression and coups d'état in the global South were tolerated. Those weapons had killed more than 54,000 Palestinians in just two years and had contributed to the commission of the crime of genocide by the United States of America and Israel in the Gaza Strip. His delegation condemned the impunity with which the arms industry operated in certain developed countries, lining its coffers regardless of the thousands of innocent people who died each year as a result of such violence.

15. **Mr. Tessema** (Ethiopia) said that his Government aligned itself with the objectives of the draft resolution. It was particularly concerned about the devastating impact of unregulated or illicit arms flows on human rights, especially the disproportionate effect they had on women, children and persons with disabilities. Ethiopia supported the call for all States to take appropriate measures, including the exercise of due diligence, to prevent arms transfers that could facilitate violations of international law. It also welcomed the emphasis placed on transparency and traceability and on the important role of the private sector in ensuring responsible conduct. His delegation reiterated its strong support for the draft resolution, reaffirming its commitment to collective efforts to advance peace, development and human rights protection worldwide.

16. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that the draft resolution clearly reflected the interrelationship between human rights, development and peace and the recognition that unregulated or illicit arms transfers had devastating consequences for those fundamental pillars and for international humanitarian law. Costa Rica advocated strict regulation of the arms trade. No economic interest could justify the transfer of arms that could contribute to serious violations of international human rights law. It wished to express particular concern about the impact of illicit transfers in populated areas during armed conflicts, in particular transfers of explosive weapons, which carried a high risk of indiscriminate harm to the civilian population and essential infrastructure. Indiscriminate access to weapons facilitated by uncontrolled arms flows increased the risk of indiscriminate violence and affected the development, peace and peaceful coexistence of communities in the region. His delegation reiterated the importance of addressing the issue through prevention. It was therefore essential to establish links with the various stakeholders in the arms industry, particularly private companies, to ensure effective control over their activities.

17. *Draft resolution A/HRC/59/L.16 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/HRC/59/L.18/Rev.1: Mandate of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls

18. **Ms. Méndez Escobar** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely Chile and her own delegation, said that the text provided for the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group for a new three-year period. The Working Group had been instrumental in identifying and documenting not only existing challenges to eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and girls but also good practices, providing key inputs to enable States to improve their regulations and public policies and eliminate gender inequality by addressing its structural causes. It was essential for the Working Group to continue to carry out that extremely important work.

19. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile), continuing the introduction of the draft resolution, said that discrimination against women and girls in its various forms persisted. It was therefore essential for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to combating discrimination by supporting the work of the Working Group and renewing its mandate. She trusted that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

20. **The President** announced that 14 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$4,536,600 for a three-year period.

General statements made before the decision

21. **Ms. Cordero Suárez** (Cuba) said that her delegation reiterated its support for the renewal of the Working Group's mandate and urged it to continue to identify gaps and propose concrete actions to combat and eradicate all forms of discrimination against women and girls. It called upon members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

22. The Constitution of Cuba, approved by popular referendum in 2019, recognized the right to equality and prohibited discrimination against women in all its forms. The National Programme for the Advancement of Women constituted the national agenda for the development of policies in favour of women, while continuing to build on the progress achieved since 1959. The Family Code, adopted in 2022, which constituted one of the most significant developments in the country's social and legal history, provided for a broad range of rights and guarantees of gender equality. It recognized caregiving as work, legalized same-sex marriage and set 18 as the minimum age for marriage. Her delegation reiterated its willingness to cooperate with universal human rights mechanisms, including the Working Group, in order to combat and eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

23. **Ms. Powis de Tenbossche** (Belgium) said that discriminatory laws and negative social norms persisted, women were still underrepresented in decision-making processes and sexual and gender-based violence remained widespread. Eliminating all structural discrimination was essential to achieving gender equality and the full realization of Sustainable Development Goal 5, which was a necessary condition for the success of the entire 2030 Agenda. The experts of the Working Group played a crucial role in proposing rights-based solutions and in helping to ensure that all women and girls were at the heart of the implementation of international standards relating to civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. For those reasons, her delegation fully supported that mandate and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

24. **Ms. Amoako-Atta** (Ghana) said that the elimination of discrimination against women and girls was a fundamental component of the international human rights agenda and was indispensable to achieving sustainable development. The draft resolution reaffirmed the international community's collective commitment to the eradication of all forms of discrimination against women and girls. The Constitution of Ghana guaranteed gender equality and prohibited discrimination, while the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act 2024 provided a legal foundation for protecting the rights of women and girls and for enhancing their participation in decision-making processes. In the light of the balanced approach taken in the draft resolution, her delegation fully supported its adoption by

consensus. Lastly, her delegation emphasized the importance of ensuring respect for the sovereign right of States to interpret and apply relevant recommendations in accordance with their religious, cultural and ethical values while remaining firmly committed to universally recognized human rights standards.

25. **Ms. Kolsøe** (Iceland) said that women and girls continued to face discrimination and inequality every day. No country had achieved substantive equality. Multiple legal and policy reforms had been implemented over the years to fully integrate the human rights of women and girls into national laws, yet progress remained insufficient. Discriminatory laws and practices meant that women and girls everywhere were still subject to significant disadvantages. Discrimination against women and girls persisted in both the public and private spheres, during times of conflict and peacetime alike. Against that backdrop, the Working Group had contributed to the intensification of global efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls by raising its expert voice, providing advice to Member States and identifying good practices. Its mandate remained as relevant as ever. For those reasons, her delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution and encouraged others to do the same.

26. **Mr. Bálek** (Czechia) said that, by adopting the draft resolution, the Council would reaffirm its steadfast commitment to promoting and protecting the rights of women and girls, in a world where gender-based discrimination persisted in both traditional and emerging forms, including those exacerbated by digital technologies. The draft resolution highlighted the importance of addressing the root causes of inequality and ensuring that all women and girls were able to live free from discrimination and participate fully and equally in all aspects of life. By renewing the mandate of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls for a further three years, the Council would not only acknowledge the Working Group's significant contributions, but also reiterate the need for inclusive approaches to achieving gender equality, which was a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. His delegation called for the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

27. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that, in the current global context, the rights of women and girls were constantly under threat. Efforts to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, must be redoubled. Ending discrimination was an essential condition for achieving gender equality. His delegation therefore firmly supported the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls, whose work had influenced the development of national laws and policies from a gender perspective, thereby advancing the promotion of women's and girls' rights. Its joint work with regional mechanisms had been extremely effective, especially for Latin America, where it had proven fundamental in protecting rights and building more just and democratic societies. The draft resolution was proof that, with political will and diplomatic maturity, it was possible to reach agreements and speak with one voice in favour of the rights of women and girls. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

28. **Mr. Oike** (Japan) said that, despite global efforts to empower women and girls, discrimination and violence against them remained widespread and pervasive, especially during armed conflicts and disasters. His Government attached great importance to the Working Group's efforts in favour of women and girls and his delegation was therefore pleased to support the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

29. **Mr. Gallón** (Colombia) said that his Government firmly supported the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. The Working Group played a fundamental role in promoting gender equality worldwide, addressing the structural causes of discrimination and helping to identify and bring visibility to that issue in diverse areas such as armed conflict, health, education, domestic violence and women's participation in public life. Its work must be accompanied by reform at the State level to bring about the material conditions needed for the full exercise of women's and girls' rights, including their equal rights to economic resources, property, inheritance and natural resources. It was shameful that women and girls continued to be deprived of their rights because of a discriminatory mindset that viewed them as inferior. That negative manifestation of human nature, present

in many societies, must be confronted through measures such as support for the Working Group. His delegation therefore called for the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

30. **Ms. Karic** (Switzerland) said that her delegation fully supported the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. Almost half a century after the adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and three decades after that of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the goal of achieving gender equality was still not a reality; that underlined the need for active and collective efforts to build a world where the rights of women and girls were always upheld. True equality was more than just formal equal treatment; it required recognizing and challenging power structures and social norms, especially those based on gender, that perpetuated inequality. For Switzerland, any reference to equality necessarily included gender. The Working Group specifically addressed discrimination against women and girls, grounding its work in their lived experiences and acknowledging their specific realities. Its work and reports were thus essential, as they provided concrete recommendations for achieving real gender equality. Her delegation understood the primary purpose of the draft resolution to be the renewal of the Working Group's mandate and looked forward to more substantive discussions in the future.

31. **Ms. Macdonal Alvarez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that her Government reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights for all, without distinction. There was a need to promote cultural change and dismantle patriarchal structures that perpetuated violence and the multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination against women and girls. Her delegation therefore welcomed the call made in the draft resolution to address the multidimensional nature of inequality, including pre-existing gender inequalities and their root causes. The recommendations and reports of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls served as guidance for States and brought attention to critical issues, such as the central role of care and support in societal development and well-being and the growing backlash against gender equality, which must be addressed globally. For those reasons, her delegation supported the draft resolution and called for its adoption by consensus.

32. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.18/Rev.1](#) was adopted.*

Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.20](#): The safety of journalists

33. **Mr. Wieland** (Observer for Austria), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely Brazil, France, Greece, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and his own delegation, said that, by adopting the draft resolution, the Council would reaffirm its conviction that the safety of journalists and media workers was essential to freedom of expression, democracy and human rights, highlighting pressing challenges demanding continued attention. Those challenges included the deeply concerning pattern of repressive actions carried out by States beyond their own borders to harm, silence or intimidate journalists, in particular through the misuse of spyware, digital harassment, physical threats and the targeting of family members or associates. In the draft resolution, the Council also reiterated the clear human rights responsibilities of private actors, including social media and surveillance technology companies. Their actions, whether by enabling online harassment or by supplying intrusive spyware, directly affected the safety of journalists. The text also drew attention to the need to ensure the safety of journalists working in situations of armed conflict and occupation. In the light of the ongoing killing and detention of journalists and the restriction of their access to information in such contexts, it must be underscored that all parties to a conflict were obliged under international humanitarian law to protect civilians, including journalists.

34. **Ms. Al-Muftah** (Qatar), continuing the introduction of the draft resolution, said that the text highlighted the growing threat to information integrity. In an era of rapidly spreading disinformation, journalists' role in providing verified, independent reporting was essential. Journalism was not a threat, but rather a cornerstone of good governance. The draft resolution also highlighted concrete steps that States should take to counter strategic lawsuits against public participation. Such abusive legal actions, often initiated by powerful private or State actors, aimed to exhaust, silence and discredit journalists. The adoption of the draft resolution

would send a concerted message that the Council stood with journalists, for media freedom and against impunity for crimes against them.

35. **The President** announced that 17 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$256,900.

General statements made before the decision

36. **Mr. Bálek** (Czechia) said that free, independent and pluralistic media were a cornerstone of every democratic society. Journalists must be able to carry out their work without fear of violence or persecution. Their role in holding power to account, fostering transparency and upholding human rights must be protected at all levels. His delegation welcomed the draft resolution's emphasis on accountability, prevention and protection and the need for effective national frameworks to investigate and prosecute attacks against journalists and their family members, as well as the support expressed for independent and public media and the emphasis on the importance of creating a safe digital space, promoting media literacy and information integrity, protecting sources and fighting disinformation. He called for the draft resolution to be adopted by consensus and for all States members of the Council to establish environments in which journalists and media workers could operate freely and safely.

37. **Mr. Da Silva Nunes** (Brazil) said that the draft resolution aligned with his Government's policies to strengthen the protection of journalists both online and offline. Brazil had consistently drawn attention to the risks posed by hate speech and the spread of disinformation, which provoked stigmatization and political violence in an attempt to restrict the meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of all persons, in particular those exposed to racism, in the democratic process. While technology companies should be encouraged to adopt measures aimed at preventing disinformation and hate speech, voluntary self-regulation was not enough. His delegation therefore welcomed the call in the draft resolution for States to establish effective policies and regulations to ensure the integrity of the democratic process and respect for fundamental human rights.

38. **Ms. Thuaudet** (France) said that the increasing number of journalists killed or injured in the course of their work was deeply alarming, and the safety of journalists was an increasingly difficult challenge. Her delegation welcomed the attention paid in the draft resolution to repressive activities carried out abroad by States aimed at harming, silencing and intimidating journalists and media professionals by various means, including through the misuse of spyware and cybertools. There was growing concern, echoed in the draft resolution, about the spread of disinformation and the large-scale manipulation of information and propaganda, particularly through digital platforms, reinforced by the misuse of artificial intelligence. At a time when artificial intelligence was profoundly transforming the media ecosystem, new risks were emerging: the uncontrolled automation of information, algorithmic manipulation and the amplification of inauthentic content. Information was not a crime; it was a public good that must be protected. In the name of that principle, she called on the Council to support the draft resolution.

39. **Ms. Espinosa Olivera** (Mexico) said that the protection of journalists was a priority for her country. Her delegation appreciated the new elements introduced to the draft resolution by the main sponsors, such as the call for companies to conduct human rights due diligence in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the references to the use of surveillance tools and software, in the light of the need to respect both the right to privacy and the right to freedom of expression. It also welcomed the references in the draft resolution to women journalists, who faced specific risks. Her delegation supported the draft resolution and urged the Council to adopt it by consensus.

40. **Mr. Tummers** (Kingdom of the Netherlands) said that journalists and media workers played a vital role in society. When journalists were attacked or killed it was not only the individuals and their loved ones who suffered; it was society as a whole. As highlighted in the draft resolution, journalists also faced psychological attacks, denial of access to reporting sites, new forms of online harassment, surveillance and disinformation, economic insecurity and attempts to persecute, intimidate or influence them through the use of legal threats such as strategic lawsuits against public participation. Often the initial injustice was further

exacerbated by the failure, in most cases, to hold perpetrators to account. Through the draft resolution, the Council would reiterate the responsibility of States for investigating crimes against journalists and prosecuting those responsible, in the knowledge that accountability for crimes committed was key in preventing future attacks. His delegation therefore fully supported the draft resolution.

41. **Mr. Yun** (Republic of Korea) said that media freedom played an essential role in providing reliable news and information, enabling robust public debate and contributing to building a well-informed and active citizenry. Journalism also played a critical role in conflict situations. His Government was alarmed by the persistent attacks, reprisals and violence against journalists and media workers and by the rising levels of impunity for crimes against them in many countries around the world. His delegation therefore welcomed the unequivocal condemnation in the draft resolution of all such threats and lent its full support to the draft resolution's adoption by consensus.

42. **Mr. Cabañas** (Cuba) said that his Government categorically condemned all acts of violence and intimidation against journalists in all regions of the world. Such acts not only constituted flagrant violations of the right to life and personal integrity, but also undermined the right to seek, receive and impart information and ideas. In a global context marked by the spread of disinformation campaigns, digital violence and targeted attacks on journalists, particularly in conflict zones and areas under foreign occupation, there was an urgent need for effective measures to protect journalists. In Cuba, the right to freedom of the press was recognized in accordance with the law and the goals of Cuban society. His delegation therefore supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

43. **Mr. Oike** (Japan) said that his Government recognized the importance of protecting and promoting the rights of journalists and media workers under all circumstances and shared the concerns expressed in the draft resolution. It strongly encouraged all companies, in particular technology and social media companies, to act in line with their responsibility to respect human rights in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. His delegation welcomed the draft resolution's emphasis on the specific risks faced by women journalists, as they were often subjected to various forms of discrimination, gender-based violence and online intimidation and harassment. The relevant actors should implement the actions proposed in the draft resolution by leveraging existing frameworks and efforts, while enhancing synergies and avoiding any duplication among United Nations bodies. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

44. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.20](#) was adopted.*

Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.22](#): Elimination of female genital mutilation

45. **Mr. Boateng** (Ghana), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the Group of African States, said that it was guided by a forward-looking and solution-oriented theme: the contribution of digital technologies to the fight against female genital mutilation. That theme reflected the usefulness of digital tools as essential instruments for awareness-raising, prevention, social transformation and capacity-building, in particular among young people and opinion leaders. Digital tools were helpful in deconstructing harmful social and cultural norms that perpetuated harmful practices, including female genital mutilation. The draft resolution reflected a shared commitment to harnessing the transformative power of digital technologies in the service of human rights. He called on the Council to adopt it by consensus to ensure its effective implementation and reaffirm the Council members' collective resolve to eliminate female genital mutilation.

46. **The President** announced that 19 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$94,600.

General statements made before the decision

47. **Ms. Cordero Suárez** (Cuba) said that female genital mutilation was a serious form of gender-based violence with no cultural, religious or medical justification. Discriminatory stereotypes and social norms that perpetuated structural violence must be eliminated by means of a global response. Her delegation welcomed the recognition of the importance of integrating the digital dimension, promoting equitable access to technology and using digital

tools in prevention, education and awareness-raising efforts and in the empowerment of women and girls. In view of the persistent digital gender gap, international cooperation must be strengthened to ensure equitable, safe and ethical access to the digital environment for all. Her delegation supported the draft resolution's adoption by consensus.

48. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union that were members of the Council, said that the European Union considered female genital mutilation to be one of the most serious human rights violations. The leadership and ownership demonstrated by the Group of African States on the issue were crucial. He welcomed the inclusion in the draft resolution of a comprehensive focus on the challenges and opportunities presented by digital and emerging technologies in the prevention of female genital mutilation, and the references to the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls. All women and girls had the right to have full control over and decide freely on matters related to their sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, free from discrimination, coercion and violence. Furthermore, the European Union commended the recognition of female genital mutilation as a grave human rights violation, a form of abuse and an extreme form of gender-based violence. There was significant scope for continued collaboration, including on the full, equal and meaningful participation of girls, which was highly relevant in the current context. A transformative approach was needed to effectively address the root causes of female genital mutilation. The draft resolution reflected a shared commitment to the highest possible level of effectiveness in the fight against that harmful practice.

49. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) said that female genital mutilation was an extremely harmful practice that had a lasting impact on the bodies and lives of millions of women and girls across the world. Addressing the issue within the Council was not only a legal duty arising from States' international obligations; it was, above all, part of States' collective responsibility to promote human dignity, justice and equality. Various aspects of the current iteration of the text, such as the more consistent use of the term "women and girls", the recognition of the structural causes of female genital mutilation and the inclusion of a more robust intersectional approach, reflected a genuine effort to align the draft with international human rights standards. Her delegation also welcomed the inclusion of explicit references to sexual and reproductive health and the transformative role played by communities, civil society and survivors of the practice.

50. The fact remained, however, that work still needed to be done. Steps should be taken to strengthen recognition of girls' progressive autonomy, in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and raise awareness of their capacity to actively participate in decisions affecting them. Doing so would reaffirm that girls were not just individuals in need of protection, but also rights holders who had the voice and agency to drive changes in their lives. Furthermore, while the notion of "family-oriented policies" was useful in certain contexts, it should not be a substitute for an approach based on individual rights. There was a need for policies that helped build protective environments while empowering all women and girls to make their own decisions concerning their body, life and future.

51. Her delegation had decided to support the draft resolution in recognition of the dedicated work of the Group of African States and the step forward that the text represented. It had also done so based on its conviction that respectful and ongoing dialogue could pave the way for more ambitious, precise and humane agreements.

52. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that female genital mutilation constituted a grave human rights violation and a form of extreme gender-based violence that continued to affect millions of women and girls worldwide. Costa Rica strongly supported efforts to eradicate the practice and considered that the Council must be relentless in its work to do so.

53. His delegation appreciated the draft resolution's focus on digital technologies and recognized the value of incorporating the digital dimension into efforts to prevent female genital mutilation, protect potential victims and provide remedies for survivors. While digital spaces could be used to perpetrate violence and spread disinformation, they could also be powerful tools for educating and empowering communities and facilitating the collection of the disaggregated data required to improve public policies. Against that backdrop, Costa Rica

firmly supported the call in the draft resolution for measures to be taken to close the digital divide, guarantee equal access to technology for women and girls, promote their meaningful participation in the design and use of digital solutions and support international cooperation aimed at strengthening national capacities in that area.

54. The draft resolution was a valuable instrument for progressing towards a world in which no woman or girl was subjected to female genital mutilation and technology was used to promote gender equality, prevent violence and guarantee the full enjoyment by women and girls of their human rights. Costa Rica was honoured to be one of the sponsors of the draft resolution and called on the Council to adopt it by consensus.

55. **Mr. Marenah** (Gambia) said that his delegation welcomed the Council's consideration of the draft resolution on the elimination of female genital mutilation, which was a deeply harmful practice that constituted a grave violation of the human rights and dignity of women and girls and had no place in modern society. The devastating physical, psychological and social consequences of female genital mutilation were well documented and highly concerning. His Government remained strongly committed to enforcing the prohibition of the practice despite the recent efforts by certain national actors to reverse the progress made in the fight against it.

56. The draft resolution's forward-looking approach and call for stronger prevention, protection and accountability mechanisms were commendable, as was the emphasis on the need for a comprehensive and coordinated approach that brought together survivors, young people, traditional leaders, civil society, community actors and stakeholders from the health, education and justice sectors. While his delegation welcomed the recognition in the text of the role that digital technologies could play in efforts to prevent and eliminate female genital mutilation, it also wished to stress the importance of safeguarding the privacy and personal data of survivors and at-risk individuals and ensuring that the use of digital tools did not result in unintended harm, stigmatization and discrimination in online spaces.

57. In view of his country's unwavering commitment to eliminating female genital mutilation and protecting the rights of all women and girls, he wished to call on all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

58. **Ms. Méndez Escobar** (Mexico) said that eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls was an urgent priority for Mexico. Female genital mutilation was a harmful practice that was rooted in unequal power relations and threatened the human rights, health, dignity and integrity of millions of women and girls across the planet. Eradicating such violence, which could not be justified on any religious or cultural grounds, required multilateral efforts. It was impossible to build a fairer, more equal and more sustainable world without first guaranteeing girls' right to live a life free from violence, discrimination and fear.

59. Her Government acknowledged both the effort made to produce a more balanced draft resolution and the text's recognition of female genital mutilation as a grave human rights violation and a form of extreme gender-based violence. Advancing towards the elimination of that practice was synonymous with advancing towards the achievement of equality, social justice and human rights for all. Her delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution and wished to reaffirm that no form of violence against women and girls should be normalized or ignored.

60. **Ms. Kolsöe** (Iceland) said that female genital mutilation constituted a serious violation of human rights and a clear manifestation of gender inequality and gender-based violence. It could cause a lifetime of severe health complications and pain for women and girls, who often faced significant legal and social obstacles that prevented the enjoyment of their sexual and reproductive rights. Iceland supported regional efforts to end female genital mutilation and, since 2012, had contributed to the United Nations Population Fund-United Nations Children's Fund Joint Programme on the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation. Guaranteeing the bodily autonomy of women and girls and enhancing their access to sexual and reproductive health services provided them with increased opportunities to participate meaningfully in their communities. For those reasons, her delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution.

61. **Mr. Tessema** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation was a committed sponsor of the draft resolution, which addressed a grave and deeply rooted human rights violation that affected millions of women and girls around the world. Female genital mutilation represented a profound threat to the dignity, rights and physical and mental health of women and girls and perpetuated cycles of gender-based violence, inequality and discrimination. Ending the practice was more than just a health issue; it was a human rights imperative and a development priority.

62. Commendably, the draft resolution expressed recognition of the evolving landscape in which female genital mutilation persisted, including its digital dimension, and placed strong emphasis on harnessing new and emerging technologies as tools for education, prevention and accountability. At the same time, it was essential to remain vigilant in the face of the misinformation and online abuse that could reinforce harmful narratives and hamper progress. His delegation was particularly encouraged by the draft resolution's call for comprehensive, multisectoral and digital strategies that were rooted in local realities and guided by human rights principles. The emphasis on international cooperation, digital inclusion and the meaningful participation of women and girls in the development of policies and technologies was opportune and necessary.

63. His country's commitment to eliminating female genital mutilation by 2030 had been demonstrated by its development of a national road map on the matter, which provided for measures such as legal reforms, awareness-raising campaigns, community engagement initiatives and the use of digital tools to reach remote areas and vulnerable populations. He wished to call on all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus and stand in solidarity with women and girls across the world to end female genital mutilation.

64. **Ms. Macdonal Alvarez** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that the Plurinational State of Bolivia supported efforts to eliminate female genital mutilation, which was a harmful practice that constituted a serious form of violence and a grave threat to the rights of women and girls. Her delegation appreciated the recognition in the draft resolution of the detrimental consequences that the practice had for the health and growth of young girls, which demonstrated the need to guarantee all their human rights and fundamental freedoms and protect them from all forms of violence and discrimination. It welcomed the references to sexual and reproductive health and to the adverse effect of the practice on the economic, legal, health and social status of women and girls and on the development of society as a whole. The focus on the use of technology to prevent the practice was also noteworthy. Her delegation was proud to be one of the sponsors of the draft resolution and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

65. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.22](#) was adopted.*

Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.23/Rev.1](#): Empowering women and girls in and through sport

66. **Ms. Al-Muftah** (Qatar), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely Indonesia, Morocco and her own delegation, said that sport was a universal language that had significant potential to help promote human rights, enhance tolerance and foster lasting development. Sport was grounded in human rights values such as justice, non-discrimination, respect and equal opportunities for all. Practising sport had a positive impact on the well-being and development of women and girls, who continued to be underrepresented in sports leadership positions, receive lower remuneration at the professional level and have fewer opportunities to participate in sporting activities. Accordingly, the purpose of the draft resolution was not only to empower women and girls in and through sport, but also to send a global message highlighting the indivisibility of dignity and equality and the fact that progress in the sports sector would lead to progress in other areas.

67. The panel discussion envisaged in the draft resolution, which would be held during the Council's sixty-second session, would offer States and other stakeholders the opportunity to engage in more in-depth discussions on the matters addressed in the text. The draft resolution also contained a request for the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on empowering women and girls in and through sport, the presentation of which would coincide with the 2027 Fédération Internationale de Football

Association (FIFA) Women's World Cup. When drafting the text, the main sponsors had sought to follow a consensus-based and constructive approach and had made extensive efforts to accommodate as many views and positions as possible. She hoped that other States would do the same when engaging in discussions on future drafts. Her delegation wished to call on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus, thereby reaffirming the Council's long-standing position on the empowerment of women and girls and the need to guarantee their equal participation in all spheres of life, including the sports sector.

68. **The President** announced that 19 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$141,800.

General statements made before the decision

69. **Mr. El Ouazzani** (Morocco), speaking on behalf of the Group of Arab States, said that sport was an important tool for promoting human rights and the realization of various Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. Sport played a vital role in building solidarity with women and girls, fostering respect for them, developing their leadership skills, improving their mental and physical health and increasing their involvement in public life. The draft resolution's focus on addressing the barriers that prevented women and girls from participating in sports meant that it would serve as an important tool for strengthening international efforts to uphold the human rights of women and girls. For that reason, his delegation supported the draft resolution and hoped that it would be adopted by consensus.

70. **Ms. Rasheed** (Maldives), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), said that OIC wished to express its strong support for the draft resolution, which was a timely and important initiative aimed at promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls in all areas of sport and at harnessing sport as a powerful vehicle for the realization of human rights and sustainable development. OIC members recognized the immense potential of sport as a unifying force that transcended cultural, social and economic divides, a means of physical development and a tool for building character, resilience and leadership skills among women and girls. The values embedded in sport, such as respect, solidarity and fair play, must be leveraged to break down barriers, overcome stereotypes and advance the empowerment of women and girls.

71. OIC appreciated the acknowledgement in the draft resolution of the challenges faced by women and girls in the area of sport and wished to reiterate its firm commitment to addressing such issues through cooperation and capacity-building programmes, doing so with respect for the cultural and religious specificities of its member States and for international human rights standards. She would like to thank the main sponsors for accommodating the proposals made by OIC, which concerned language on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, as well as discrimination based on religion or belief in sport, and called on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

72. **Ms. Cordero Suárez** (Cuba) said that her Government recognized the relevance of the draft resolution, which highlighted how structural barriers, violence, discrimination and a lack of representation meant that thousands of women and girls had limited opportunities to participate in sport. The inclusion of the matter on the Council's agenda was the first concrete step towards overcoming the challenges identified. Her delegation appreciated the inclusion of language recognizing sport as a powerful tool for fostering equality, combating discrimination and promoting the empowerment of women and girls, and the acknowledgement of the role that sport played in efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The draft resolution was in line with the views of Cuba, which, since 1959, had been working to promote the rights of women and girls in all spheres of life, including sport. For Cuba, access to sport, physical education and recreational activities was a human right and a means to foster social inclusion, health and dignity. Accordingly, her delegation supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

73. **Mr. Song** Changqing (China) said that sport played a positive role in efforts to realize peace and development, promote tolerance and mutual respect and empower women.

Creating environments conducive to the safe and equal participation of women and girls in sports, promoting their participation in national, regional and international sporting events and increasing their representation in sports leadership positions were all measures that helped to enhance gender equality and women's empowerment.

74. China had always been a staunch supporter of women's rights. In 1995, the city of Beijing had hosted the Fourth World Conference on Women, at which two milestone documents, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, had been adopted. The country had since made significant progress and was currently organizing another global summit to address women's issues, to be held later in 2025. His delegation supported the draft resolution and hoped that the Council would adopt it by consensus, with a view to promoting women's advancement.

75. **Mr. Islam** (Bangladesh) said that the draft resolution rightly recognized the transformative role that sport could play in fostering teamwork, self-confidence, resilience and leadership skills among women and girls, thereby contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5. His delegation welcomed the strong emphasis on the need to ensure that women and girls had access to safe environments, both online and offline, in which they could practise sport without facing harassment, abuse or any other form of violence. The call for clear complaint, referral and redress mechanisms to end impunity was vital for guaranteeing women's meaningful participation in sport, and the inclusion of provisions designed to support the full, equal and meaningful representation of women and girls in leadership roles within the global sport ecosystem represented a crucial step towards addressing structural barriers and promoting gender-balanced governance in sport. His delegation also appreciated the inclusion of a clear call to reduce pay gaps between men and women participants in sport, the focus on enhancing the participation of women and girls with disabilities in sport and recreational activities and the invitation to media outlets to amplify women's sporting achievements and address negative stereotypes.

76. Sport had the potential to break down social barriers, challenge stereotypes and prejudices and advance the human rights of women and girls. As a country committed to gender equality, Bangladesh was seeking to harness sport as a strategic tool for promoting inclusion and empowerment. For that reason, his delegation supported the draft resolution and called on the members of the Council to adopt it by consensus.

77. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union that were members of the Council, said that the late circulation of the draft resolution and the failure to indicate the sources of the proposed language compromised meaningful discussion among Member States, undermined the transparency of the process and could have damaging implications for the topic addressed. The European Union had concerns regarding the added value of the draft resolution and the potential for duplication, in particular since the empowerment of women and girls and their human rights in sport were addressed in at least three of the Council's existing resolutions. Accordingly, coordination among the main sponsors of all the resolutions concerned was essential in order to ensure mutual respect and the efficiency of the Council's work. Such efforts were all the more important given the current financial constraints.

78. While the European Union appreciated the main sponsors' efforts to accommodate a number of its concerns and strike a balance between the diverging views, it deeply regretted that the draft resolution did not reflect the numerous proposals aimed at strengthening the language on the human rights of women and girls and on gender equality, which had been widely supported by delegations from all regions. The European Union had hoped for a more ambitious approach that would help advance gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their full and equal enjoyment of all human rights. Instead, the final text represented a retrogression from language agreed by the United Nations. He also wished to express concerns regarding the ambiguous reference to dress codes that undermined the dignity of women and girls, which could be interpreted in ways that were contrary to international human rights law. The European Union understood the reference to States' obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to mean that States were to adopt the measures necessary to encourage and promote the participation, to the greatest extent possible, of persons with disabilities in sporting activities at all levels.

79. The European Union had appreciated the exchange of views with the main sponsors of the text and was grateful for the opportunity to clarify its concerns in the interest of building understanding. It recognized that some of its proposals had been taken into account and, despite its serious concerns, would not oppose the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

80. **Ms. Méndez Escobar** (Mexico) said that gender equality in sport was essential for fostering social development and building a fairer and more equal future. The pay gap between men and women participants in sport was alarming; on average, female high-performance athletes earned about 1 per cent of what their male counterparts earned. The fact that such disparities existed around the world, including in Mexico, meant that gender inequality and gender-based violence in sport must be addressed in a cross-cutting manner.

81. Her Government was concerned that, despite the progress made, women and girls continued to face significant barriers that limited their participation in sport. Such barriers, which included the pay gap, harassment and multiple forms of discrimination and violence, must be addressed as a matter of urgency. Against that backdrop, her delegation welcomed the draft resolution and appreciated the flexibility shown by the main sponsors in their efforts to address the concerns raised by her delegation and others. She wished to reiterate her country's commitment to fighting for the rights of all women and girls. It was necessary to continue moving towards a future in which all women had the opportunity to develop their skills in and through sport.

82. **Ms. Pavón Lugo** (Dominican Republic) said that the draft resolution highlighted the power of sport to foster individual and collective growth and addressed relevant issues such as the underrepresentation of women in sports leadership positions, the pay gap, the exclusionary rules and the various forms of violence, harassment and discrimination that women and girls faced in online and offline sporting environments. Equal access to sport enabled women and girls to improve their mental and physical health and develop confidence, resilience, leadership skills and a sense of belonging. Her delegation welcomed the draft resolution's comprehensive approach, the proposal of concrete measures and the fact that the text was clearly aligned with States' international obligations, especially those under Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality. Empowering women and girls in sport meant enabling them to live a life with dignity and equal opportunities and without fear. For that reason, her delegation enthusiastically supported the draft resolution and called on all members of the Council to adopt it by consensus as a sign of their collective commitment to building fairer and more inclusive societies.

83. **Mr. Alhayen** (Kuwait), speaking on behalf of the States members of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, said that those States attached great importance to the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls and their empowerment in all areas, including sport. They had taken various measures to promote the participation of women in sporting events and to enable them to compete in safety. He wished to reaffirm the role of sport in promoting the values of mutual respect, dignity, equality, tolerance, justice and non-discrimination and to stress the need to guarantee the full and meaningful participation of women and girls in sports at every level. Doing so would require the development of infrastructure and the adoption of legislation to address the specific needs of women and girls. The States members of the Cooperation Council appreciated the efforts by the main sponsors to take into account the comments received with a view to producing a balanced text that was fully focused on the ultimate goal of empowering women and girls in and through sport. He wished to call on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

84. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that, by adopting the draft resolution, the Council would recognize the transformative role that sport could play as a powerful tool for promoting human rights, inclusion and social cohesion. It would also acknowledge that women and girls faced persistent challenges in the sports sector, which continued to limit their full enjoyment of human rights, and would reaffirm that their full, equal and meaningful participation contributed to their personal development and physical and mental well-being, helped them develop leadership skills, opened up economic and educational opportunities and enabled them to challenge discriminatory social norms.

85. His delegation wished to stress the need for States to adopt policies and strategies that promoted safe and inclusive spaces and guaranteed equality for women at all levels of sport. Sport was a strategic tool for driving gender equality and empowering women and girls in all spheres of life. He wished to acknowledge the flexible and constructive approach taken by the main sponsors, who had worked to reconcile positions and produce a text that took into account the various concerns expressed during the negotiations. The text was more than a draft resolution on women and girls in sport; it was a strong political message that his country had heard loud and clear. He wished to call on Council members to adopt the draft resolution by consensus and invite those States that had not yet done so to join the sponsors, with a view to demonstrating their readiness to build bridges, listen to others and get to work.

86. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) said that the draft resolution emphasized the transformative value of sport in promoting inclusion and participation and enhancing the visibility of women leaders at all levels. The text highlighted the multiple structural barriers faced by women and girls in sport and the need to promote safe environments, strengthen their leadership and eliminate obstacles that restricted their participation. It also recognized that sport was a powerful tool for promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls in all their diversity.

87. In line with its feminist foreign policy, the Government of Chile firmly believed that sport should be free from discrimination and violence and that women and girls should not only be able to participate in it but should also lead and inspire others. On the basis of that conviction, the delegation of Chile supported the draft resolution, while recognizing that it could be strengthened further in future editions. In particular, the principle of gender equality could be more clearly established as a cross-cutting theme of the text, using language aligned with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Council resolution 56/22 on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls. She called on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

88. **Ms. Widyaningsih** (Indonesia) said that her Government reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to empowering women and girls, including in the realm of sport. Under a national law adopted in 2022, all citizens, including persons with disabilities, had the right to participate in sport at all levels. Sport was a powerful driver in improving human development, fostering national unity and maintaining world peace. Therefore, empowering women and girls in and through sport was essential to safeguarding their right to participate in all spheres of life and enhancing their role as agents of peace.

89. Her delegation was concerned to note that many women and girls in sport continued to face discrimination, including on the grounds of race, religion or belief, and remained underrepresented in terms of participation, leadership roles and media coverage. The draft resolution was intended to address those problems by encouraging States, as well as national, regional and international sports organizations, to actively promote the empowerment of women and girls in and through sport. The draft resolution contained universally accepted language, reflecting the universal nature of sport and human rights. She called on all members of the Council to support the draft resolution.

90. **Mr. Eisa** (Sudan) said that sport fulfilled essential physical, cultural and social needs. As the draft resolution made clear, sport served as a tool for peace, social coexistence, integration and equality. The draft resolution addressed the gaps in women's and girls' participation in sports and set out measures for overcoming those gaps. It also addressed the human rights dimension of women's and girls' participation in sport. His delegation supported the draft resolution and called on the Council to adopt it without a vote.

91. **Mr. Tessema** (Ethiopia) said that Ethiopia was a proud sponsor of the draft resolution, which highlighted the transformative power of sport as a driver of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. His delegation supported the call for safe, inclusive and equitable sports environments for all women and girls, irrespective of their background or ability.

92. Ethiopia had a rich history of exceptional women athletes who had broken records and barriers, from the legendary Derartu Tulu, the first black African woman to win an Olympic gold medal, to the many other women athletes who continued to inspire generations

of girls across the globe. They were a testament to athletic excellence and a reflection of the resilience, leadership and potential of women and girls. His delegation welcomed the emphasis that the draft resolution placed on leadership, infrastructure, safe participation and access for women and girls with disabilities and on the importance of combating all forms of discrimination and violence, both online and offline. He invited all members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

93. **Mr. Marenah** (Gambia) said that the draft resolution reaffirmed the self-evident truth that sport was a powerful tool for promoting physical well-being, gender equality, empowerment and social inclusion. As a country with a vibrant sporting culture, the Gambia had always advocated the empowerment of women and girls through sport, from girls participating in inter-school competitions to professional female athletes who competed in regional and international sporting events. The Gambia recognized the immense potential of sport as a platform for promoting inclusion, self-confidence, leadership and resilience among women and girls. Sport contributed to physical and mental well-being, created opportunities for education, leadership and economic empowerment and challenged harmful gender stereotypes.

94. Unfortunately, millions of women and girls around the world were denied the right to participate in sport by chauvinistic attitudes in their societies. Therefore, he welcomed the emphasis that the draft resolution placed on addressing structural barriers, improving access to sports infrastructure and promoting the full and equal participation of women and girls at all levels. He called on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

95. **Mr. Torrejón Alcoba** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that sport helped to transform historical structures of discrimination and inequality and contributed to the peaceful coexistence of peoples and nations. From a plural and intercultural perspective, the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia understood that empowerment involved recognizing the full diversity of identities, territories and realities. It therefore made efforts to ensure that Indigenous women and girls, women and girls with disabilities, and women and girls belonging to other historically excluded communities had access to safe, violence-free, accessible and culturally relevant sports facilities.

96. Sport reduced social isolation and promoted inclusion and community cohesion. Empowering women and girls through sport served to advance gender equality and promote their health, education and leadership. His delegation supported the draft resolution and welcomed all efforts to encourage women and girls in the world of sport to thrive as professional athletes, coaches, referees, medical professionals and executives. He called on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

97. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.23/Rev.1](#) was adopted.*

Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.25/Rev.1](#): Accelerating efforts to achieve women's economic empowerment

98. **Mr. Sultanov** (Kyrgyzstan), introducing the draft resolution on behalf of the main sponsors, namely the Dominican Republic, the Republic of Moldova, Sierra Leone, the United Kingdom and his own delegation, said that those delegations had made every effort to reflect the diversity of views expressed by the members of the Council while remaining faithful to the draft resolution's central purpose. Around the world, structural barriers, discriminatory norms, unequal access to resources and the unequal burden of unpaid care work continued to hinder women's participation in economic life. Through the draft resolution, the Council would call on States to eliminate discriminatory laws and practices, to promote equal pay for work of equal value, to recognize and redistribute unpaid care work, to ensure women's equal access to financial services, education, leadership and decision-making processes and to promote women's entrepreneurship and digital inclusion. The draft resolution was intended to become a biennial initiative to ensure that it would remain on the Council's agenda. He called on the Council to demonstrate its determination to advance gender equality and women's rights by adopting the draft resolution by consensus.

99. **Ms. González Nicasio** (Dominican Republic), continuing the introduction of the draft resolution, said that it reflected the shared experiences of women all over the world, as expressed in the informal consultations held on the text. Women in all countries and

circumstances were compelled to choose between care work and personal growth, between family life and leadership and between surviving and thriving. The draft resolution highlighted the feminization of poverty, the impact of climate change, the burden of unpaid work, gender wage gaps, difficulties in accessing productive and financial resources, and persistent barriers that hindered women's access to health, education and social protection.

100. Through the draft resolution, the Council would request OHCHR to prepare a report on the impact of trade agreements on gender equality and women's economic empowerment. Such a report was necessary because women continued to be underrepresented in strategic trade sectors and continued to be excluded from value chains and vulnerable to economic reforms that did not take their situations into account. Women were disproportionately impacted by the crises affecting the world but were not always on the front line of decision-making processes.

101. The disproportionate effect that inflation, austerity and conflict had on women made it necessary to adopt structural measures with a gender focus. The draft resolution reflected the fact that women's economic empowerment was not a luxury but a form of freedom, including the freedom of women to leave violent relationships, to make decisions concerning their health and future, and to live dignified lives. Supporting the draft resolution would be a way of honouring the generations of women who had given up opportunities, challenged stereotypes and paid with their struggles or their silence for women's right to take part in forums such as the Council. She called on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

102. **The President** announced that 27 States had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, which had programme budget implications amounting to \$111,900.

General statements made before the decision

103. **Mr. El Ouazzani** (Morocco) said that the draft resolution had been put forward at a particularly timely moment, given the persistent and extensive barriers to economic participation faced by women, especially as a result of discriminatory attitudes, behaviours, norms, perceptions and customs. His delegation was deeply concerned that women and girls, including migrant women, continued to bear a disproportionate burden of unpaid care, support and domestic work, which perpetuated the feminization of poverty and hindered the full enjoyment of human rights by women and girls everywhere. In recognition of those challenges, the Government of Morocco had launched a plan for equality, for the period 2023–2026, that was aimed at achieving women's economic empowerment through the promotion of entrepreneurship. His delegation fully supported the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus.

104. **Ms. Fuentes Julio** (Chile) said that her delegation had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution because the text reaffirmed principles that were pillars of her country's feminist foreign policy. Although the text could be strengthened in future editions, especially through a focus on the need for clear legal obligations relating to economic, social and cultural rights, it constituted a valuable political platform for enhancing the protection afforded to women living in poverty, precariously employed women and women facing economic exclusion. Her delegation welcomed the draft resolution's references to redistributing unpaid care work, closing wage gaps and guaranteeing access to quality public services, including social protection. She urged the members of the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

105. **Ms. Chen Jiawen** (China) said that, as the country that had hosted the Fourth World Conference on Women, China was further consolidating the substantive progress it had made in the field of gender equality. Thanks to the Government's efforts, some 44 million rural women had been lifted out of abject poverty, the proportion of college students who were women had risen significantly and 32 million women had become scientists or technicians. In view of countries' differing historical and cultural backgrounds, it was important to respect the path chosen by each country for the development of human rights, in line with its national circumstances. Her delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution.

106. **Ms. Rovalo Otero** (Mexico) said that achieving women's economic empowerment was not only a development goal but also a matter of human rights. Ensuring that all women had access to decent jobs, social security, financial services, property and opportunities to

become entrepreneurs was a step towards ensuring their freedom, decision-making power and full participation in public life. Her delegation welcomed the draft resolution's acknowledgement of the relationship between economic empowerment and factors such as the unequal distribution of unpaid care and support work. It was essential to ensure that such work, which had historically been carried out by women and girls, was recognized, redistributed and fairly remunerated.

107. **Ms. Cordero Suárez** (Cuba) said that her delegation appreciated the fact that the draft resolution included language recognizing women's contribution to the economy and highlighted the impact of gender inequalities on the enjoyment of women's rights, including the right to development. Her delegation also welcomed the call to guarantee adequate social security benefits and remuneration for working mothers before and after childbirth and to fairly distribute family responsibilities. As noted in the text, the reform of the international financial architecture would enable developing countries to devote more resources to the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights.

108. Cuban women were fortunate to have been born in a country where gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls were prioritized. In Cuba, the economic activity rate for women stood at 52.7 per cent and the unemployment rate for women was just 2 per cent. Women accounted for 36 per cent of workers and 20 per cent of owners of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises. They also accounted for over 55 per cent of the members of the National Assembly. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ranked Cuba among the seven countries that had achieved gender parity in science. Despite those and other achievements in the field of gender equality, Cuba was aware of the challenges that remained to be met. Her delegation thus called on the Council to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

109. **Ms. Trifonova** (Bulgaria) said that gender equality should be guaranteed as the first step in ensuring the active and meaningful participation of women and girls in all aspects of life. A thriving, just and sustainable society was one in which women and men had equal opportunities to learn and develop their professional skills and enjoyed equal access to the labour market and equal pay. States should therefore strive to eliminate any barriers that hindered women's access to education and economic independence. Women should be actively encouraged to apply for managerial positions and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Her delegation welcomed the draft resolution's references to women's social rights as an instrument for promoting their economic independence. Her delegation had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution and called for its adoption by consensus.

110. **Mr. Tessema** (Ethiopia) said that his delegation recognized the cross-cutting importance of women's economic empowerment to sustainable development, economic growth, peace and human rights, as reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development. He was deeply concerned to note that, as the draft resolution made clear, one in every ten women lived in extreme poverty. Furthermore, legal and structural barriers still prevented billions of women around the world from fully participating in the labour force. He welcomed the draft resolution's references to the key barriers to women's economic empowerment and the intersecting forms of discrimination faced by rural women and women with disabilities.

111. His delegation appreciated the emphasis placed on investing in gender-responsive social protection, equal access to education and digital infrastructure, and the transformative role of care services and gender-responsive budgeting. Women's economic empowerment was not only a goal in itself but also a powerful multiplier for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Being committed to gender equality, the Government of Ethiopia continued to implement policies and programmes that dismantled structural barriers and promoted women's participation in all areas of economic life. His delegation strongly supported the draft resolution and urged the Council to adopt it by consensus.

112. **Mr. Gallón** (Colombia) said that women's economic empowerment was a catalyst for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth, and Goal 10 on reduced inequalities. Economic autonomy was essential to preventing and overcoming gender-based violence, as

it allowed women to escape from violent environments. His delegation appreciated the calls made in the draft resolution to eliminate structural barriers, reduce the gender pay gap, expand access to social protection systems and productive resources, and promote women's participation in strategic sectors. Colombia would continue to work with the Council to promote gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and girls and hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

113. **Mr. Gómez Martínez** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the States members of the European Union that were members of the Council, said that the European Union was seriously concerned about the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work and the legal barriers that hindered women's economic participation. The European Union welcomed the emphasis that the draft resolution placed on equal pay for work of equal value, sustainable infrastructure and accessible social protection services, including childcare and paid maternity, paternity and parental leave.

114. The European Union also welcomed the references to quality education and to science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and the concern expressed about the gender digital divide. Equal inheritance rights were crucial to enhancing the empowerment of women and girls. Improving women's economic empowerment began with supporting the training and autonomy of girls. While the European Union would have preferred to see a stronger emphasis on the importance of combating sexual and gender-based violence in promoting the economic empowerment of women and girls, it supported all efforts to expedite such empowerment and thus supported the draft resolution.

115. **Mr. Mahabub** (Bangladesh) said that Bangladesh was committed to ensuring the development of women in all sectors, with a particular focus on their economic empowerment. The Government had formulated a national policy for women's development, which it updated regularly in line with the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. According to the *Global Gender Gap Report 2025*, Bangladesh ranked third globally for the political empowerment of women. Women's participation in the labour market in Bangladesh had increased by more than 50 per cent over the previous two decades. The Government had taken a range of steps to promote the economic empowerment of rural women and women entrepreneurs.

116. His delegation welcomed the emphasis placed on the disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls and the urgent need for reforms to be made to the international financial architecture. As the draft resolution made clear, the establishment of nationally defined, gender-responsive social protection floors was essential to facilitating the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. However, the text could have placed greater emphasis on the role of the family in supporting the empowerment of women and girls, including their economic empowerment. In order to empower girls, it was necessary to ensure their safety and well-being, including by respecting and protecting the critical role of parents in providing them with guidance and support. The draft resolution also included some language that did not enjoy consensus. However, his delegation would join the consensus on the draft resolution and urged all members of the Council to do the same.

117. **Mr. Guillermet Fernández** (Costa Rica) said that gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and girls were prerequisites for sustainable and comprehensive human development. Economic independence was essential to ensuring that women were able to break free from cycles of violence. For that reason, his delegation supported the calls made in the draft resolution to eliminate obstacles to the labour market and ensure women's equitable access to resources, land, credit, education, social protection and the right to inherit. His delegation also welcomed the references made to domestic work, the redistribution of unpaid care work, investment in support services and the promotion of paid parental leave.

118. He appreciated the fact that the draft resolution highlighted the multiple forms of discrimination faced by Indigenous women, older women, women with disabilities, girls and adolescents, and women living in rural and maritime areas. States should be urged to enact or strengthen laws, regulations or measures to support the principle of equal pay for work of equal value in the public and private sectors. Costa Rica reiterated its commitment to gender equality and the economic empowerment of all women and girls without exception. He hoped that the draft resolution would be adopted by consensus.

119. **Ms. Kolsøe** (Iceland) said that women's economic empowerment was essential for the fulfilment of women's human rights and benefited the whole of society. The draft resolution included language calling on States to address the root causes of the feminization of poverty, such as gender stereotypes and negative social norms, and underscored the importance of agency and autonomy for women and girls. Investing in girls' education, ensuring their access to sexual and reproductive health services and recognizing and redistributing unpaid care, support and domestic work would create an enabling environment for the realization of the full range of women's and girls' human rights. Her delegation welcomed the references to equal pay for work of equal value, the promotion of shared parental leave and the sharing of household responsibilities. For those reasons, her delegation was joining the consensus on the draft resolution.

120. *Draft resolution [A/HRC/59/L.25/Rev.1](#) was adopted.*

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.