



# General Assembly

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## Fifty-fifth session Third Committee

Agenda item 114 (b)

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

**Afghanistan, Bahrain, Benin, Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the  
Congo, Egypt, El Salvador, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Libyan Arab  
Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Morocco, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi  
Arabia, Sudan, Tajikistan, Uganda and United Arab Emirates: draft resolution**

### **Human rights and cultural diversity**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>1</sup> and the relevant provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination<sup>3</sup> and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,<sup>4</sup>

*Noting* that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation, proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,<sup>5</sup>

*Taking note* of the report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity,<sup>6</sup>

*Welcoming* the designation by the General Assembly, in its resolution 53/22 of 4 November 1998, of the year 2001 as the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 2200 (XXI), annex.

<sup>3</sup> General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex.

<sup>4</sup> General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

<sup>5</sup> See the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

<sup>6</sup> A/55/296 and Add.1.

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

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

*Taking into account* that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and respect for human rights, and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and dialogue between cultures,

*Considering* that tolerance of cultural, ethnic and religious diversities is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world,

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

*Convinced* that the promotion of cultural pluralism, and tolerance towards and dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

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

2. *Also affirms* that the international community should make every effort to ensure that the phenomenon of globalization in its entirety promotes respect for cultural diversity as an asset in an increasingly interconnected world vis-à-vis the perceptions and processes that may hamper the integrity of cultural identities which could constitute a threat to peace and partnership among peoples and nations worldwide;

3. *Further affirms* that inter-cultural dialogue essentially enriches the universality of human rights and that manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred and violence among peoples and nations throughout the world;

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

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

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

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the light of the present resolution, to prepare a report on human rights and cultural diversity, taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to take also into account, in the analytical portion of the above-mentioned report to the General Assembly, the considerations of the present resolution on the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world;

9. *Decides* to continue the consideration of this question at its fifty-sixth session under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

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