



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
15 June 2011

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Seventeenth session

Agenda item 3

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

Switzerland: revised draft decision

17/... Panel on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests

At its ... meeting, on ... June 2011, the Human Rights Council decided to adopt the following text:

“The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Reaffirming also that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, States Members of the United Nations have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Emphasizing that the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, of expression and of association are human rights guaranteed to all, and that therefore everyone must be able to express their grievances through public and peaceful protests without fear of being injured, beaten, detained, tortured or killed,

Stressing that peaceful protests should not be viewed as a threat and therefore encouraging States faced with peaceful protests to engage in an open, inclusive and meaningful national dialogue,

Recalling that when peaceful protests occur, States have the responsibility to promote and protect human rights and to prevent human rights violations, in particular extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment,

Recognizing therefore the need to reflect on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests,

1. *Decides* to convene, within existing resources, at its eighteenth session, a panel discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, with a particular focus on the ways and means to improve the protection of these rights in such contexts in line with human rights law;

2. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with relevant special procedures, States and other stakeholders, including relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;

3. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion in the form of a summary.”
