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Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Austria, Brazil*, Burkina Faso, Cambodia*, Cameroon, Chile, Colombia*, Côte d'Ivoire*, Costa Rica, Croatia*, El Salvador*, Ethiopia*, Ghana*, Guatemala, Honduras*, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan*, Lao People's Democratic Republic*, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco*, Namibia*, Norway, Paraguay*, Peru, Poland, Portugal*, Senegal, Serbia*, Singapore*, Switzerland, Tajikistan*, Thailand, Tunisia*, Turkey*, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)*, Viet Nam*, Zimbabwe*: draft resolution

18/... Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations, particularly with regard to achieving international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion,

Reaffirming that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and also the primary responsibility of States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Emphasizing that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Recalling the mandate of the Human Rights Council to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of States concerned, and provisions in Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/22 of 25 March 2011, which aim to enable the Council to fulfil such a mandate,

Reaffirming the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights that provided the foundation for advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights, in particular resolutions 1993/87 of 10 March 1993 and 2004/81 of 21 April 2004,

* Non-Member State of the Human Rights Council.

Acknowledging the role and mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and his/her Office in providing advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights,

Acknowledging also the role and impact of the activities of the relevant agencies of the United Nations and international and regional organizations, as well as the contribution of civil society organizations in providing States with technical support and assistance on the basis of needs and requests of the States concerned in the implementation of their human rights obligations and their voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations,

Reaffirming the important and constructive role played by existing national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities,

1. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights;

2. *Emphasizes* the need to promote a cooperative and constructive approach for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as to enhance the role of the Human Rights Council in promoting advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly through discussions held under agenda item 10;

3. *Decides* to dedicate, once a year, a part of its programme of work under agenda item 10 to a thematic discussion to promote the sharing of experiences and best practices and technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights;

4. *Also decides* that the theme of the discussion shall be approved by the Human Rights Council on an annual basis, and that the first discussion to be held at the nineteenth session of the Council shall be based on the theme “Sharing of best practices and promoting technical cooperation: paving the way towards the second cycle of the universal periodic review”;

5. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, relevant special procedures and other stakeholders, including, where applicable, those involved in technical cooperation projects that demonstrate best practices, constructive engagement and positive impact on the ground, with a view to ensuring their participation in the discussion;

6. *Takes note* of the information on technical assistance and capacity-building provided in the annual report of the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to make available to the public, through its reports and website, information on:

(a) Technical assistance and capacity-building provided by the Office and other relevant United Nations agencies to States in the implementation of their human rights obligations and voluntary pledges and commitments, including their accepted universal periodic review recommendations;

(b) The ongoing needs of States, on the basis of requests submitted by the States concerned, for technical assistance from the Office and other relevant United Nations agencies;

(c) Areas of technical assistance where more resources are needed;

7. *Invites* the High Commissioner to make an annual presentation, under agenda item 10, on the overview of and successes, best practices and challenges in technical assistance and capacity-building efforts, particularly those provided by the Office of the

High Commissioner and relevant United Nations agencies, starting from the twentieth session of the Council;

8. *Invites* the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights to present a comprehensive report on the Board's work to the Human Rights Council on an annual basis, starting from the twentieth session of the Council, and encourages the Chairpersons of the boards of trustees of other funds administered by the Office of the High Commissioner to support activities in the area of technical assistance and capacity-building to make a presentation at the same session;

9. *Encourages* Members and observers of the Human Rights Council to use the general debate under agenda item 10 as a platform to share experiences, achievements, best practices, challenges and information on assistance needed in the implementation of their human rights obligations and voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations, to offer technical assistance, and to share their views and assessments in response to the information on technical assistance and capacity-building provided for under paragraphs 7 and 8 above;

10. *Emphasizes* that the discussion to promote technical cooperation and capacity-building in the Human Rights Council should be based on consultations with and on the request and consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their needs and aim to make a concrete impact on the ground;

11. *Encourages* States in need of assistance to consider requesting technical assistance from the Office of High Commissioner and the United Nations representation at the national and regional levels in the implementation of their human rights obligations and voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner and respective United Nations representations to respond favourably to such requests;

12. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies in their technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts, and encourages the sharing of information on a regular basis among the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and the States concerned on technical assistance and capacity-building efforts undertaken at the national level;

13. *Encourages* special procedures mandate holders, in their interaction with States, to share information of their knowledge relating to best practices and the possibility of technical assistance and capacity-building in the promotion and protection of human rights in the area of their mandates;

14. *Calls for* enhanced voluntary contributions for the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building, including the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, and encourages States to make contribution to these funds, especially those who have not yet done so.