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

Algeria*, Angola, Azerbaijan*, Bangladesh*, Belarus*, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of)*, Cambodia*, Cuba*, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea*, Ethiopia, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Lebanon*, Monaco*, Morocco*, Nepal*, Philippines, Qatar, Sri Lanka*, State of Palestine*, Timor-Leste*, United Republic of Tanzania*, Uruguay*: draft resolution

23/... Human rights and climate change

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling its resolutions 7/23 of 28 March 2008, 10/4 of 25 March 2009 and 18/22 of 30 September 2011, on human rights and climate change, and 16/11 of 24 March 2011 and 19/10 of 22 March 2012, on human rights and the environment,

Reaffirming the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the objectives and principles therein, and emphasizing that parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights,¹

Welcoming the holding of the recent conferences of the Parties to the Framework Convention, including the seventeenth session of the Conference, held in November 2011, in Durban, , and the eighteenth session, held in November 2012, in Doha,

Welcoming also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro,

Reaffirming the commitment to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Framework Convention through long-term cooperative action in order to achieve the ultimate objective of the Convention,

* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council.

¹ FCCC/CP/2010/7/Add.1, dec. 1/CP.16.

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, that the right to development must be fulfilled in order to meet the development and environmental needs of present and future generations equitably, and that the human person is the central subject of development and should be an active participant in and the beneficiary of the right to development,

Recognizing also the challenges of climate change to development and to the progress made towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with regard to the goals on the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, on environmental sustainability and on health and nutritional well-being, especially in developing countries,

Acknowledging that, as stated in the Framework Convention, the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities and their social and economic conditions,

Acknowledging also that, as stated in the Framework Convention, responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse effects on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the relationship between climate change and human rights,² the panel discussion on the relationship between climate change and human rights, held on 15 June 2009, at the eleventh session of the Human Rights Council, and the 2010 Social Forum, which focused on the relationship between climate change and human rights,

Emphasizing that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of human rights, including, inter alia, the right to life, the right to adequate food, the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to adequate housing, the right to self-determination, the right to development and the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and recalling that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Expressing concern that, while these implications affect individuals and communities around the world, the adverse effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations owing to factors such as geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status and disability,

Noting with concern that people in developing countries are among the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of

² A/HRC/10/61.

all human rights, particularly those in least developed countries, small island developing States, and in African countries that have contributed the least to global greenhouse gas emissions,

Recognizing that climate change is a global problem requiring a global solution, and that effective international cooperation to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Framework Convention in accordance with the provisions and principles of the Convention is important in order to support national efforts for the realization of human rights implicated by climate change-related effects,

Noting that, as stated in the Framework Convention, the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, and of those parties, especially developing country parties that would have to bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden under the Convention, should be given full consideration, and further reaffirming the responsibility of countries to respect their human rights obligations;

Noting also that, as stated in the Rio Declaration, States should cooperate to strengthen capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchange of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new innovative technologies,

Affirming that human rights obligations, standards and principles have the potential to inform and strengthen international and national policymaking in the area of climate change, promoting policy coherence, legitimacy and sustainable outcomes,

Welcoming the establishment of the Climate Vulnerable Forum and the launching in 2012 in New York of the second edition of *Climate Vulnerability Monitor*, which may become a useful tool to orient public policies and identify gaps in the promotion and protection of all human rights from the adverse effects of climate change,

1. *Reiterates* its concern that the adverse effects of climate change have a range of direct and indirect implications for the effective enjoyment of human rights and that the effects of climate change will be felt most acutely by those segments of population and communities around the world that are already in vulnerable situations owing to geography, poverty, gender, age, indigenous or minority status or disability;

2. *Welcomes* the convening by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of the seminar, held on 23 and 24 February 2012, on addressing the adverse effects of climate change on the full enjoyment of human rights, and takes note of its summary report;³

3. *Expresses concern* that climate change has contributed to the increase of both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events, and that these events have adverse effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights;

4. *Takes note* of the adverse impact of climate change, particularly on women, bearing in mind the different effects of climate change on men, women, boys and girls;

5. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to continue to address the adverse consequences of climate change for all, particularly on the situation of those segments of society most vulnerable to climate change, especially those in situations of extreme poverty and deteriorating livelihood conditions, as related to human rights obligations of States;

³ A/HRC/20/7.

6. *Stresses the importance* of fostering dialogue and cooperation between relevant international organizations and stakeholders to develop the analysis of the linkages between human rights and climate change;

7. *Calls on* all States to continue to enhance international cooperation in relation to the adverse impact of climate change on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, including through dialogue and measures, such as implementation of practical steps to promote and facilitate capacity-building, financial resources and technology transfer in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

8. *Decides* to convene, at its twenty-sixth regular session, from within existing resources, a full-day discussion on specific themes related to human rights and climate change on the basis of the different elements contained in the present resolution, including the identification of challenges to the realization of all human rights for all, including the right to development, as well as measures and best practices that can be adopted by States;

(a) To follow up on the importance for States to promote and protect human rights in all climate change-related actions and policies, and to forge stronger interface and cooperation between the human rights and climate change communities;

(b) To invite special procedures mandate holders, within their respective mandates, and other relevant stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society organizations, to participate actively in the full-day discussion to consider, inter alia, the adverse effects of climate change, particularly on those segments of the population that are most vulnerable to climate change owing to factors such as those referred to in paragraph 1 above, and the human rights challenges faced by all countries, particularly least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, in relation to climate change;

9. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-sixth session, following the full-day discussion, a summary report, including any recommendation stemming therefrom, for consideration of further follow-up action;

10. *Decides* to consider the possibility of organizing follow-up events on climate change and human rights within its future programme of work;

11. *Encourages* relevant special procedures mandate holders to give consideration to the issue of climate change and human rights within their respective mandates;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to provide all the human and technical assistance necessary for the effective and timely realization of the above-mentioned full-day discussion and the summary report;

13. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.
