



# General Assembly

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## Sixty-eighth session Third Committee

Agenda item 69 (b)

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

**Argentina, Austria, Costa Rica, Greece and Tunisia: draft resolution**

#### **Safety of journalists and the issue of impunity**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup> and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,<sup>2</sup> the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance<sup>3</sup> and the Geneva Conventions of 1949<sup>4</sup> and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977,<sup>5</sup> as well as Security Council resolution [1738 \(2006\)](#) of 23 December 2006,

*Recalling* the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on 13 April 2012, in which Member States were invited to work for a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers in both conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy and development worldwide,

*Recalling also* Human Rights Council resolution [21/12](#) of 27 September 2012 on the safety of journalists, as well as Human Rights Council resolution [24/15](#) of 27 September 2012 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education, in which the Council decided to make media professionals and journalists the focus group of the third phase of the Programme,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression<sup>6</sup> and the Special

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<sup>1</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

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

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 61/177, annex.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

<sup>6</sup> A/HRC/20/17.



Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,<sup>7</sup> submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session,

*Commending* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for undertaking standard-setting and programmatic activities with regard to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity,

*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Office of the High Commissioner on good practices on the safety of journalists,<sup>8</sup> submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

*Recognizing* that journalism has evolved to include inputs from media institutions, private individuals and a range of organizations and that the concept of “journalist” has accordingly expanded beyond reporters, editors and support staff to include other actors who produce news and generate information,

*Recognizing also* the relevance of freedom of expression and a free press in building inclusive knowledge societies and democracies and in fostering dialogue, peace and good governance,

*Bearing in mind* that impunity for attacks against journalists constitutes the main challenge to strengthening the protection of journalists,

*Expressing concern* at the threat to the safety of journalists posed by non-State actors, including terrorist groups and criminal organizations,

*Acknowledging* the specific risks faced by women journalists in the exercise of their work, and underlining, in this context, the importance of taking a gender-sensitive approach when considering measures to address the safety of journalists,

1. *Welcomes* the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity;

2. *Condemns unequivocally* all attacks and violence against journalists and media workers, such as torture, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, as well as intimidation and harassment in both conflict and non-conflict situations;

3. *Decides* to proclaim 1 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists;

4. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to investigate crimes against them and to bring the perpetrators to justice;

5. *Invites* the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, as well as Member States, to consider identifying focal points for the exchange of information about the implementation of the Plan of Action so as to strengthen coordination and international cooperation in this area;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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<sup>7</sup> A/HRC/20/22 and Corr.1.

<sup>8</sup> A/HRC/24/23.