

**Sixty-eighth session**

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**Report of the Third Committee*****Rapporteur:* Ms. Adriana **Murillo Ruin** (Costa Rica)**I. Introduction**

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-eighth session, under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”, the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee held a general discussion of the sub-item jointly with sub-item 69 (c), “Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives”, at its 23rd to 37th meetings, from 23 to 25 and from 28 to 31 October and on 1 November 2013, and considered proposals and took action under sub-item 69 (b) at its 43rd, 44th, 46th, 47th and 49th to 54th meetings, on 7, 12, 14, 19, 21 and 25 to 27 November. An account of the Committee’s consideration is contained in the relevant summary records ([A/C.3/68/SR.23-37](#), 43, 44, 46, 47 and 49-54).

3. For the documents before the Committee under this sub-item, see [A/68/456](#).

4. At the 23rd meeting, on 23 October, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights engaged in a dialogue with the representatives of China, Ethiopia (on behalf of the African States), Costa Rica, the European Union, El Salvador, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Norway, Romania, Suriname (on behalf of the

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Caribbean Community), Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Libya, Serbia, Switzerland, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic, Liechtenstein, Belarus, Bangladesh, France, Nigeria, South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Angola, the Netherlands, Kenya, Indonesia and Brazil, and with the observer for the State of Palestine (see [A/C.3/68/SR.23](#)).

5. At the 24th meeting, on 23 October, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Canada, Australia, the European Union, Ireland, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Belarus, the United States of America, Norway, Maldives, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and Brazil (see [A/C.3/68/SR.24](#)).

6. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Cuba, the European Union, Egypt, Slovenia, Nigeria, Canada, Japan, the United States, South Africa, Qatar and Papua New Guinea (see [A/C.3/68/SR.24](#)).

7. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the United States, Chile, the European Union, Cuba, the Russian Federation and Nigeria (see [A/C.3/68/SR.24](#)).

8. Also at the 24th meeting, the Independent Expert on minority issues made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Norway, Cameroon, Hungary, the United States, the European Union, Austria, Switzerland, Serbia and the Russian Federation (see [A/C.3/68/SR.24](#)).

9. At the 25th meeting, on 24 October, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Eritrea, the United States, Switzerland, Australia, the European Union, Norway, Djibouti, the Sudan and Cuba (see [A/C.3/68/SR.25](#)).

10. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Canada, the Syrian Arab Republic, Norway, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Serbia, Georgia, the European Union, the United States, the Russian Federation and Austria, and the observer for the International Organization for Migration (see [A/C.3/68/SR.25](#)).

11. Also at the same meeting, the Chairs of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances made introductory statements and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Argentina, France, Lithuania, Poland, the European Union, Mexico, Spain and Germany (see [A/C.3/68/SR.25](#)).

12. At the 26th meeting, on 24 October, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, the Russian Federation, Brazil and Cuba (see [A/C.3/68/SR.26](#)).

13. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Mexico, the European Union, Angola, the Russian Federation, Nigeria, Bangladesh and Qatar, and by the observer for the International Organization for Migration (see [A/C.3/68/SR.26](#)).

14. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made a statement on behalf of the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (see [A/C.3/68/SR.26](#)).

15. Also at the 26th meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Myanmar, Australia, the United States, Canada, the Republic of Korea, the European Union, Japan, Thailand, Liechtenstein, Albania, Qatar, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, the Russian Federation, China, Argentina, Norway, the Maldives and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.26](#)).

16. At the 27th meeting, on 25 October, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Austria, the European Union, Liechtenstein, the United States, Brazil, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Montenegro, Maldives, the Russian Federation, Bangladesh and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see [A/C.3/68/SR.27](#)).

17. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism made introductory statements and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Pakistan, the European Union, Mexico, Norway, Brazil, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, the United States, China, Liechtenstein, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Cuba, Azerbaijan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see [A/C.3/68/SR.27](#)).

18. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Brazil, Angola, the European Union, Maldives, the United States, South Africa, Germany and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.27](#)).

19. At the 28th meeting, on 25 October, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, the Russian Federation, Romania, Argentina, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, the Sudan, Qatar and Ethiopia, and by the observer for the International Organization for Migration (see [A/C.3/68/SR.28](#)).

20. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Argentina, the Czech Republic, Tunisia, Switzerland and the European Union (see [A/C.3/68/SR.28](#)).

21. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health made an introductory statement and responded to comments and questions made by the representatives of Switzerland, the European Union, South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Bahrain, the Russian Federation, Ireland and the Sudan (see [A/C.3/68/SR.28](#)).

22. Also at the 28th meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the Sudan, Switzerland, Norway, the European Union, Cameroon and Cuba, and by the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (see [A/C.3/68/SR.28](#)).

23. At the 29th meeting, on 28 October, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the United States, the European Union and the Russian Federation (see [A/C.3/68/SR.29](#)).

24. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Brazil, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.29](#)).

25. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the right to education made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Bangladesh, the European Union, Indonesia, Nigeria and Qatar, and by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (see [A/C.3/68/SR.29](#)).

26. Also at the 29th meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Norway, the European Union, Slovenia, Switzerland, Bangladesh, Germany, Nigeria and Spain (see [A/C.3/68/SR.29](#)).

27. At the 30th meeting, on 28 October, the Chair of the Working Group on the Right to Development made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (also on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), China, South Africa, Cuba and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.30](#)).

28. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Norway, the European Union, Switzerland, Maldives, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Ireland, China and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.30](#)).

29. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of South Africa, the European Union, Norway, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the Russian Federation (see [A/C.3/68/SR.30](#)).

30. Also at the 30th meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus made an introductory statement and responded to questions and

comments made by the representatives of Belarus, the European Union, Switzerland, the Islamic Republic of Iran (also on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries), China, Kazakhstan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Poland, Norway, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Nicaragua, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Zimbabwe, Turkmenistan, Cuba and Azerbaijan (see [A/C.3/68/SR.30](#)).

31. At the 31st meeting, on 29 October, the Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made an introductory statement (see [A/C.3/68/SR.31](#)).

32. At the same meeting, the Deputy Director of the New York Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, made an introductory statement on behalf of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the European Union, Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Maldives, Norway, Japan, the United States, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Cuba, the Republic of Korea and China made comments and posed questions, to which the Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea responded, also on behalf of the Special Rapporteur (see [A/C.3/68/SR.31](#)).

33. Also at the same meeting, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full employment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, made an introductory statement (see [A/C.3/68/SR.31](#)).

34. Also at the 31st meeting, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Libya, the United States, the European Union, Norway, the United Kingdom, Egypt, Belarus, Indonesia, Canada, China and the Sudan (see [A/C.3/68/SR.31](#)).

35. At the 32nd meeting, on 29 October, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Myanmar made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Myanmar, Switzerland, Djibouti (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Singapore, Canada, Norway, Guatemala, Australia and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.32](#)).

36. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to peaceful assembly and of association made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Norway, the United States, the European Union, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, the Czech Republic, Bahrain, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Egypt, Zimbabwe and Ethiopia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.32](#)).

37. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Cuba, Mauritania, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Norway, the Syrian Arab Republic, Qatar, Brazil, South Africa, Libya, the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Maldives, Indonesia and Pakistan, and by the observer for the State of Palestine (see [A/C.3/68/SR.32](#)).

38. At the 33rd meeting, on 30 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights made introductory statements and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Yemen, Cameroon, Qatar, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran (see [A/C.3/68/SR.33](#)).

39. At the 34th meeting, on 30 October, the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity made an introductory statement and responded to questions and comments made by the representatives of Cuba and Indonesia (see [A/C.3/68/SR.34](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.34](#) and Rev.1

40. At the 36th meeting, on 31 October, the representatives of Germany and Spain made statements and, on behalf of Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Maldives, Mali, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Panama, Poland, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, jointly introduced a draft resolution entitled “The human right to water and sanitation” ([A/C.3/68/L.34](#)) and orally corrected it to read:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling its resolution [64/292](#) of 28 July 2010, in which it recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and reaffirming the previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, Council resolution [24/18](#) of 27 September 2013,

“Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

“Reaffirming its commitments to human rights, as expressed in its resolution [55/2](#) of 8 September 2000, entitled ‘United Nations Millennium Declaration’, and its follow-up resolutions [60/1](#) of 16 September 2005, entitled ‘2005 World Summit Outcome’, and [65/1](#) of 22 September 2010, entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’,

“Reaffirming also its resolutions [58/217](#) of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Life’, 2005-2015,

and 65/154 of 20 December 2010, by which it proclaimed 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation,

“Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992 and its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled ‘The future we want’, and emphasizing the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

“Welcoming the holding of the General Assembly plenary meeting of 27 July 2011 entitled ‘The human right to water and sanitation’,

“Welcoming also the proclamation of 19 November as World Toilet Day, in the context of and pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/291 of 24 July 2013, entitled ‘Sanitation for All’,

“Recalling general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) and the statement on the right to sanitation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 19 November 2010, as well as the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

“Deeply concerned that approximately 768 million people still lack access to improved drinking water sources and that more than 2.5 billion do not have access to improved sanitation facilities, including more than 1.04 billion people who still practice open defecation, as defined by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund in their 2013 update on the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, and that these figures do not fully capture the dimensions of water safety, the affordability of services and the safe management of excreta and wastewater, as well as equality, non-discrimination and differences between urban and rural areas, and therefore underestimate the numbers of those without access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

“Deeply concerned also that, despite the fact that the target of the Millennium Development Goals to reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to improved water sources was formally met five years before its deadline of 2015, the target on sanitation is one of the most off-track on the Millennium Development Goals agenda, that communities continue to be exposed to harmful substances owing to in-existent or inadequate sanitation facilities and that the achieved level of drinking water and sanitation coverage might not be sustainable owing to the serious deficiencies in water management and wastewater treatment, which have a negative impact on water provision and likely also on future access to drinking water,

“Deeply concerned further that women and girls often face particular barriers in accessing water and sanitation, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities,

“Deeply alarmed that, every year, almost 700,000 children under 5 years of age die, and millions of school days are lost, as a result of water- and

sanitation-related diseases, and that girls in large parts of the world do not go to school for lack of separate toilets for girls,

“Acknowledging the importance of equal access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of all human rights,

“Reaffirming the responsibility of States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

“Reaffirming also that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and must take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, to achieve progressively the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations,

“Stressing the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in particular in the timely achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals, and urging development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

“Recalling that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure and acceptable, and that provides privacy and ensures dignity,

“1. *Reaffirms* the recognition of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;

“2. *Also reaffirms* that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and is inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity;

“3. *Recognizes* the need to take into account the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation while shaping the post-2015 development agenda, in particular while defining concrete goals, targets and indicators, taking into account the human rights-based approach;

“4. *Welcomes* the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the Human Rights Council;

“5. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and takes note with appreciation in particular of her related reports and her contributions to shaping the post-2015 development agenda and to progressively eliminating inequalities in the access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

“6. *Takes note* of the recommendation in the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, commissioned by the Secretary-General, in which the Panel lists water and sanitation among the indicative goals in the post-2015 development agenda, and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled ‘A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015’, in which the Secretary-General recognizes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation as one of the foundations for a decent life;

“7. *Calls upon* States and, as applicable, regional and international organizations:

“(a) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

“(b) To continuously monitor and regularly analyse the status of the realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation on the basis of the criteria set out above;

“(c) To address, in an appropriate manner, the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the principles of equality and non-discrimination in the post-2015 development agenda;

“(d) To take into due account the role of proper management of water resources, increasing water quality, significantly improved wastewater treatment and water efficiency, and the essential role that ecosystems play, in maintaining water quantity and quality for sustainable development and the realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

“(e) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all, while eliminating inequalities in access by persons belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups, including those based on rural-urban disparities, tenure status, residence in a slum, poverty and income levels, ethnicity, nationality and social origin, gender, age and disability, or on any other grounds;

“(f) To ensure the adequate participation of concerned communities, including through an open and inclusive dialogue, regarding adequate solutions to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

“(g) To provide for effective accountability mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers in order to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause human rights violations or abuses.”

41. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation” (A/C.3/68/L.34/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.34 and Albania, Armenia, Benin, Bulgaria, Burundi, Costa Rica, Denmark, the

Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Fiji, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Singapore, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Thailand, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia. Subsequently, Angola, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, Paraguay and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

42. At the same meeting, the representative of Spain orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) The sixteenth preambular paragraph, which read:

“Recalling that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use and to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure and acceptable, and that provides privacy and ensures dignity”,

was deleted;

(b) Operative paragraph 2 was moved and became the fifteenth preambular paragraph;

(c) In operative paragraph 3, the words “considering a human rights-based approach” were replaced by the words “taking into account an approach that supports the promotion and protection of human rights”.

43. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Costa Rica made a statement and announced that her country had withdrawn its sponsorship of the draft resolution (see [A/C.3/68/SR.49](#)).

44. Also at its 49th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.34/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution I).

45. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Uzbekistan, Colombia, Switzerland, El Salvador, Argentina, the United States, India, Canada and Chile (see [A/C.3/68/SR.49](#)).

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.35](#)

46. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled “The right to development” ([A/C.3/68/L.35](#)).

47. At the 51st meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Cuba orally revised the draft resolution by adding the following new paragraph after operative paragraph 2:

“3. Supports the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development, as renewed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 9/3 of 24 September 2008, with the recognition that the Working

Group may convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council”

and renumbering the remaining paragraphs accordingly.

48. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.35](#), as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 148 to 4, with 27 abstentions (see para. 146, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Canada, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine.

49. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries); after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom (see [A/C.3/68/SR.51](#)).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/6/L.36

50. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Human rights and cultural diversity” (A/C.3/68/L.36). Subsequently, Brazil and China joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

51. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.36 by a recorded vote of 127 to 53 (see para. 146, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*¹

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

52. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union) and the United States; after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica, Viet Nam and Equatorial Guinea (see A/C.3/68/SR.49).

¹ Subsequently, the delegation of Viet Nam indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.37

53. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights” (A/C.3/68/L.37). Subsequently, Brazil, China, El Salvador and the Russian Federation joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

54. At the 50th meeting, on 25 November, the representative of Cuba orally revised operative paragraph 13 of the draft resolution by deleting the words “to continue”, before the words “to consult”.

55. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.37, as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution IV).

56. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the United States (see A/C.3/68/SR.50).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.38

57. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies” (A/C.3/68/L.38). Subsequently, Brazil, China and the Russian Federation joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

58. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.38 by a recorded vote of 126 to 54, with 1 abstention (see para. 146, draft resolution V). The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan,

² The delegation of Equatorial Guinea subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Chile.

59. After the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Lithuania, on behalf of the European Union (see [A/C.3/68/SR.49](#)).

F. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.39](#)

60. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Human rights and unilateral coercive measures” ([A/C.3/68/L.39](#)). Subsequently, Brazil and China joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

61. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.39](#) by a recorded vote of 126 to 54 (see para. 146, draft resolution VI). The voting was as follows:³

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian

³ The delegation of Sierra Leone subsequently indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

62. After the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the United States (see [A/C.3/68/SR.49](#)).

G. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.40](#) and Rev.1

63. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Greece, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, El Salvador, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Mali, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey, introduced a draft resolution entitled “The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity” ([A/C.3/68/L.40](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977, 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 and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, 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, 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.”

64. At its 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.40/Rev.1](#)) submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.40](#) and Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Uruguay. Subsequently, Andorra, Benin, Maldives, Mongolia, Morocco and San Marino joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

65. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.40/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution VII).

66. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan and Qatar (see [A/C.3/68/SR.51](#)).

H. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.41](#) and amendment thereto contained in document [A/C.3/68/L.72](#)

67. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Liberia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Vanuatu, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization” ([A/C.3/68/L.41](#)). Subsequently, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Morocco, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Tuvalu, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

Action on the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/68/L.72](#)

68. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced an amendment to draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.41](#) contained in document [A/C.3/68/L.72](#), by which the words “, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation.” in operative paragraph 11 would be deleted.

69. At the same meeting, the Committee rejected the amendment contained in document [A/C.3/68/L.72](#) by a recorded vote of 94 to 29, with 33 abstentions. The voting was as follows:⁴

In favour:

Algeria, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brunei Darussalam, China, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Barbados, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu.

Abstaining:

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nepal, Niger, Oman, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Zambia.

70. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the United States (see [A/C.3/68/SR.46](#)).

⁴ The delegations of Burundi and the Congo subsequently indicated that they had intended to abstain.

Action on draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.41](#) as a whole

71. At its 46th meeting, on 14 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.41](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution VIII).

72. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa and Cuba (see [A/C.3/68/SR.46](#)).

I. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.43](#) and Rev.1

73. At the 47th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Norway, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Right to the truth” ([A/C.3/68/L.43](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Protocols Additional thereto of 1977, and other relevant instruments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

“Recalling article 32 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, which recognizes the right of families to know the fate of their relatives, and article 33 of Additional Protocol I, which provides that the parties to an armed conflict shall search for the persons who have been reported missing, as soon as circumstances permit,

“Recalling also resolution [60/147](#) of 16 December 2005, in which the General Assembly adopted the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law,

“Recognizing the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

“Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/66 of 20 April 2005, Human Rights Council decision 2/105 of 27 November 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 9/11 of 18 September 2008, [12/12](#) of 1 October 2009 and [21/7](#) of 10 October 2012 on the right to the truth,

“Welcoming the creation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence by the Human Rights Council by its resolution [18/7](#) of 29 September 2011, and the appointment of a mandate holder by the Council at its nineteenth session,

“Taking into account Human Rights Council resolutions [10/26](#) of 27 March 2009 and [15/5](#) of 29 September 2010 on forensic genetics and human rights, in which the Council recognized the importance of the utilization of forensic genetics to deal with the issue of impunity within the

framework of investigations relating to gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law,

“Recalling its resolution [65/196](#) of 21 December 2010 and Human Rights Council resolution [14/7](#) of 17 June 2010, in which the Assembly and the Council, respectively, proclaimed the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims,

“Recalling also the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [61/177](#) of 20 December 2006, in particular article 24 (2) thereof, which sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of enforced disappearance, the progress and the results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, article 24 (3), which sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard, and the preamble, which reaffirms the right to freedom to seek, receive and impart information to that end, and welcoming the entry into force of the Convention on 23 December 2010,

“Noting that the Human Rights Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances have recognized the right of the victims of gross violations of human rights and their relatives to the truth about the events that have taken place, including the identification of the perpetrators of the acts that gave rise to such violations,

“Recalling the set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity, and taking note with appreciation of the updated version of those principles,

“Stressing that adequate steps should also be taken to identify victims in situations that do not amount to armed conflict, especially in cases of massive or systematic violations of human rights,

“Convinced that States should preserve archives and other evidence concerning gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law to facilitate knowledge of such violations, investigation of allegations and the provision of victims with access to an effective remedy in accordance with international law,

“Recalling that a specific right to the truth may be characterized differently in some legal systems as the right to know or the right to be informed or freedom of information,

“Acknowledging, in cases of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, the need to study the interrelationships among the right to the truth and the right to access to justice, the right to obtain effective remedy and reparation, and other relevant human rights,

“Emphasizing that the public and individuals are entitled to have access, to the fullest extent practicable, to information regarding the actions and decision-making processes of their Government, within the framework of each State’s domestic legal system,

“1. *Recognizes* the importance of respecting and ensuring the right to the truth so as to contribute to ending impunity and to promote and protect human rights;

“2. *Welcomes* the establishment in several States of specific judicial mechanisms and non-judicial mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, that complement the justice system, to investigate violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and appreciates the elaboration and publication of the reports and decisions of these bodies;

“3. *Encourages* the States concerned to disseminate, implement and monitor implementation of the recommendations of non-judicial mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, and to provide information regarding compliance with the decisions of judicial mechanisms;

“4. *Encourages* other States to consider establishing specific judicial mechanisms and, where appropriate, truth and reconciliation commissions to complement the justice system, to investigate and address gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law;

“5. *Encourages* States and international organizations to provide requesting States with necessary and appropriate assistance regarding the right to the truth by means of, among other actions, technical cooperation and the exchange of information concerning administrative, legislative and judicial and non-judicial measures, as well as experiences and best practices that have as a purpose the protection, promotion and implementation of this right, including practices regarding the protection of witnesses and the preservation and management of archives;

“6. *Urges* all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

“7. *Calls upon* States to work in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in accordance with his mandate, including by extending invitations to the Special Rapporteur;

“8. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to establish a national archival policy that ensures that all archives pertaining to human rights are preserved and protected, and to enact legislation that declares that the documentary heritage of the nation is to be retained and preserved, and creates the framework for managing State records from their creation to their destruction or preservation;

“9. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue inviting, from within existing resources, Member States, United Nations organs, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to provide information on good practices in the establishment, preservation and provision of access to national archives on human rights, and to make the information received publicly available in an online database;

“10. *Invites* special procedures and other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, in the framework of their mandates, to take into account, as appropriate, the issue of the right to the truth;

“11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to develop, within existing resources, jointly with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, a cross-regional event in order to exchange experiences and good practices on the subject right to the truth.”

74. At its 53rd meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.43/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.43](#) and Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Maldives, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Vanuatu and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

75. At the same meeting, the representative of Argentina orally revised operative paragraph 14 of the draft resolution by replacing the words “in the General Assembly, on 24 March 2014” with the words “in observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims, subject to availability of resources”.

76. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.43/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution IX).

77. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Canada (see [A/C.3/68/SR.53](#)).

J. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.44](#)

78. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of France, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), introduced a draft resolution entitled “International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance” ([A/C.3/68/L.44](#)). Subsequently, Belize, Benin, Canada, the Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Eritrea, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, Ukraine and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

79. At its 50th meeting, on 25 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.44](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution X).

K. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.45](#) and Rev.1

80. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representatives of Brazil and Germany made statements and on behalf of Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, France, Germany, Indonesia, Liechtenstein, Peru, Switzerland and Uruguay, jointly introduced a draft resolution, entitled "The right to privacy in the digital age" ([A/C.3/68/L.45](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Reaffirming also the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

"Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

"Noting that the rapid pace of technological development enables individuals in all regions to use new information and communication technologies and at the same time enhances the capacity of Governments, companies and individuals for surveillance, interception and data collection, which may violate human rights, in particular the right to privacy, as enshrined in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is therefore an issue of increasing concern,

"Reaffirming the human right of individuals to privacy and not to be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to enjoy protection of the law against such interferences and attacks, and recognizing that the exercise of the right to privacy is an essential requirement for the realization of the right to freedom of expression and to hold opinions without interference, and one of the foundations of a democratic society,

"Stressing the importance of the full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including the fundamental importance of access to information and democratic participation,

"Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-third session, concerning the implications of States' surveillance of communications and the interception of personal data for the exercise of the human right to privacy,

"Emphasizing that illegal surveillance of communications, their interception and the illegal collection of personal data constitute a highly intrusive act that violates the right to privacy and freedom of expression and may threaten the foundations of a democratic society,

“*Noting* that while concerns about public security may justify the gathering and protection of certain sensitive information, States must ensure full compliance with their obligations under international human rights law,

“*Deeply concerned* at human rights violations and abuses that may result from the conduct of any surveillance of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, in particular massive surveillance, interception and data collection,

“*Recalling* that States must ensure that measures taken to counter terrorism comply with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

“1. *Reaffirms* the rights contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular the right to privacy and not to be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to enjoy protection of the law against such interference or attacks, in accordance with article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

“2. *Recognizes* the rapid advancement in information and communications technologies, including the global and open nature of the Internet, as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;

“3. *Affirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, in particular the right to privacy;

“4. *Calls upon* all States:

“(a) To respect and protect the rights referred to in paragraph 1 above, including in the context of digital communication;

“(b) To take measures to put an end to violations of those rights and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their obligations under international human rights law;

“(c) To review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including massive surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy and ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law;

“(d) To establish independent national oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency and accountability of State surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data;

“5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit an interim report on the protection of the right to privacy in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance of communications, their interception and collection of personal data, including massive surveillance, interception and collection of personal data, to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, and a final report at its seventieth session, with views and

recommendations, to be considered by Member States, with the purpose of identifying and clarifying principles, standards and best practices on how to address security concerns in a manner consistent with States' obligations under international human rights law and with full respect for human rights, in particular with respect to surveillance of digital communications and the use of other intelligence technologies that may violate the human right to privacy and freedom of expression and of opinion;

“6. *Decides* to examine the question on a priority basis at its sixty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled ‘Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms’ of the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of human rights’.”

81. At its 51st meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.45/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Argentina, Austria, Belize, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay.

82. At the same meeting, the Secretary read out a statement of programme budget implications in connection with the draft resolution (see [A/C.3/68/SR.51](#)).

83. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.45/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XI).

84. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Indonesia; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Sweden, Australia, Singapore, the United Kingdom, the United States, Qatar and Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (see [A/C.3/68/SR.51](#)).

L. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.47](#)

85. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Egypt, on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Swaziland, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights” ([A/C.3/68/L.47](#)), and orally revised the first preambular paragraph by replacing the words “*Guided by*” by the word “*Reaffirming*”.

86. At the 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the representative of Egypt announced that Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Belarus, Belize, Botswana, Burundi,

China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, the Niger, Oman, the Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Somalia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

87. Also at its 52nd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.47](#), as orally revised, by a recorded vote of 112 to 52 (see para. 146, draft resolution XII). The voting was as follows:⁵

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

88. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Lithuania, on behalf of the European Union (see [A/C.3/68/SR.52](#)).

⁵ The delegations of Azerbaijan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Jamaica, the United Arab Emirates, Paraguay and Peru indicated that they had intended to vote in favour, and the delegation of Australia indicated that it had intended to vote against.

M. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.48](#) and Rev.1

89. At the 47th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Djibouti, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Australia and Azerbaijan, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief” ([A/C.3/68/L.48](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

“Reaffirming also the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

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

“Reaffirming that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one’s choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one’s religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

“Reaffirming also the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

“Expressing deep concern at those acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of tolerance,

“Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

“Reaffirming also that violence can never be an acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief,

“Welcoming Human Rights Council resolutions [16/18](#) of 24 March 2011 and [22/31](#) of 22 March 2013 and General Assembly resolution [67/178](#) of 20 December 2012,

“Deeply concerned about incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

“Deploring any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

“Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

“Strongly deploring, further, all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

“Concerned about actions that wilfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief,

“Expressing deep concern at the instances of intolerance, discrimination and acts of violence occurring in the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Expressing concern at the growing manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief that can generate hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations,

“Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

“Underlining the fact that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

“Underlining also the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for religious and cultural diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining further the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

“Recognizing that working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increase interfaith and intercultural efforts and expand human rights education is an important first step in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

“*Welcoming* the work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, established on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is playing as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

“*Welcoming also*, in this regard, all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief, including the launching of the Istanbul Process, and the holding of five regional workshops by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Austria, Chile, Kenya, Morocco and Thailand on related issues,

“*Welcoming further* the continuation of the organization of workshops and meetings in the framework of the Istanbul Process to discuss the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18,

“1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief;

“2. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programmes and agendas pursued by extremist individuals, organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments;

“3. *Expresses concern* that the number of incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continues to rise around the world, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution and consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;

“4. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

“5. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and expresses its conviction that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;

“6. *Also recognizes* the strong need for global awareness about the possible serious implications of incitement to discrimination and violence, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and urges all Member States to make renewed efforts to develop educational systems that promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms that enhance tolerance for religious and cultural diversity, which is fundamental to promoting tolerant, peaceful and harmonious multicultural societies;

”7. *Calls upon* all States to take the following actions, as called for by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect by:

“(a) Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;

“(b) Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities, and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;

“(c) Encouraging the training of Government officials in effective outreach strategies;

“(d) Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination, and developing strategies to counter those causes;

“(e) Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

“(f) Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;

“(g) Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;

“(h) Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;

“8. *Also calls upon* all States:

“(a) To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against an individual on the basis of religion or belief;

“(b) To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

“(c) To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;

“(d) To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other law enforcement investigative procedures;

“9. *Further calls upon* all States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries and shrines, and to take protective measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;

“10. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs;

“11. *Encourages* all States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include those updates in her reports to the Human Rights Council;

“12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report that includes information provided by the High Commissioner on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, as set forth in the present resolution.”

90. At its 54th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.48/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.48](#) and Brazil, New Zealand, Thailand and Uruguay.

91. At the same meeting, the representative of Djibouti, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, orally revised the draft resolution by replacing the twenty-first preambular paragraph with the following text:

“Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting intercultural dialogue, as well as the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the work of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna, established on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is playing as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue”.

92. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution XIII).

93. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union) and Albania (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

N. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.49](#) and Rev.1

94. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Lithuania, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Freedom of religion or belief" ([A/C.3/68/L.49](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution [36/55](#) of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

"Recalling also article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant human rights provisions,

"Recalling further its previous resolutions on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, including resolution [67/179](#) of 20 December 2012, and Human Rights Council resolution [22/20](#) of 22 March 2013,

"Recognizing the important work carried out by the Human Rights Committee in providing guidance with respect to the scope of freedom of religion or belief,

"Considering that religion or belief, for those who profess either, is one of the fundamental elements in their conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief, as a universal human right, should be fully respected and guaranteed,

"Deeply concerned at continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals and members of religious communities and religious minorities around the world and at the limited progress that has been made in the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and believing that further intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as also noted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, as well as at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009,

"Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to

religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

“Concerned that official authorities sometimes tolerate or encourage acts of violence, or credible threats of violence, against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities,

“Concerned also at the increasing number of laws and regulations that limit the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and at the implementation of existing laws in a discriminatory manner,

“Convinced of the need to address the rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the rights of individuals, the situations of violence and discrimination that affect many women and other individuals on the basis or in the name of religion or belief or in accordance with cultural and traditional practices and the misuse of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in other relevant instruments of the United Nations,

“Seriously concerned about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

“Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

“Underlining the importance of education, including human rights education, in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of, and its respect for, diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining also the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

“1. *Stresses* that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have, or not to have, or to adopt a religion or belief of one’s own choice, and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one’s religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, including the right to change one’s religion or belief;

“2. *Also stresses* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief applies equally to all persons, regardless of their religion or belief and without any discrimination as to their equal protection by the law;

“3. *Strongly condemns* violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief as well as all forms of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief;

“4. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of

the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs;

“5. *Condemns* violence and acts of terrorism, which are increasing in number, targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities across the world;

“6. *Emphasizes* that no religion should be equated with terrorism, as this may have adverse consequences on the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief of all members of the religious communities concerned;

“7. *Recalls* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against persons belonging to religious minorities, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

“8. *Emphasizes* that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and stresses further the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

“9. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of hatred on the basis of religion or belief that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

“10. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of institutionalized social intolerance and discrimination practised against many on the grounds of religion or belief, and emphasizes that legal procedures pertaining to religious or belief-based groups and places of worship are not a prerequisite for the exercise of the right to manifest one’s religion or belief and that such procedures, when legally required at the national or local level, should be non-discriminatory in order to contribute to the effective protection of the right of all persons to practise their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others and in public or private;

“11. *Recognizes with concern* the challenges faced by persons in vulnerable or marginalized groups or situations in exercising their right to freedom of religion or belief;

“12. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest one’s religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, are non-discriminatory and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

“13. *Also emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, where the need to protect public morals is invoked to justify restrictions, such restrictions must respect the universality of human rights and the principle of non discrimination and must be based on principles not deriving exclusively from a single tradition, as the concept of morals derives from many social, philosophical and religious traditions;

“14. *Expresses deep concern* at emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief as well as the continued existence of instances of intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief, including:

“(a) The increasing number of acts of violence and intolerance directed against individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities and other communities in various parts of the world, in particular those occurring in countries experiencing conflict or political instability;

“(b) The rise of religious extremism in various parts of the world that affects the rights of individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities;

“(c) Incidents of hatred, discrimination, intolerance and violence on the basis of religion or belief, which may be associated with or manifested by the derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief;

“(d) Attacks on or destruction of religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, as they have more than material significance for the dignity and lives of members of communities holding spiritual or religious beliefs;

“(e) Instances, both in law and practice, that constitute violations of the human right to freedom of religion or belief, including of the individual right to publicly express one’s spiritual and religious beliefs, taking into account the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as other international instruments;

“(f) Constitutional and legislative systems that fail to provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction;

“15. *Urges* States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to this end:

“(a) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction, inter alia, by providing access to justice and effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief or the right to freely practise one’s religion, including the right to change one’s religion or belief, is violated;

“(b) To implement all accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief;

“(c) To ensure that no one within their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life, liberty and security of person because of religion or belief and that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

“(d) To end violations of the human rights of women and to devote particular attention to appropriate measures modifying or abolishing existing

laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminate against women, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, to actively contribute to finding practical ways to ensure the right of freedom of religion or belief and equality between men and women and to encourage positive developments in this regard;

“(e) To ensure that existing legislation is not implemented in a discriminatory manner or does not result in discrimination based on religion or belief, that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief when accessing, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits and that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination on the basis of religion or belief;

“(f) To review, whenever relevant, existing registration practices in order to ensure that such practices do not limit the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private;

“(g) To ensure that no official documents are withheld from the individual on the grounds of religion or belief and that everyone has the right to refrain from disclosing information concerning their religious affiliation in such documents against their will;

“(h) To ensure, in particular, the right of all persons to worship, assemble or teach in connection with a religion or belief and their right to establish and maintain places for these purposes, and the right of all persons to seek, receive and impart information and ideas in these areas;

“(i) To ensure that, in accordance with appropriate national legislation and in conformity with international human rights law, the freedom of all persons and members of groups to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions is fully respected and protected;

“(j) To ensure that all public officials and civil servants, including members of law enforcement bodies, and personnel of detention facilities, the military and educators, in the course of fulfilling their official duties, respect freedom of religion or belief and do not discriminate for reasons based on religion or belief, and that they receive all necessary and appropriate gender-sensitive awareness-raising, education or training on respect for freedom of religion or belief;

“(k) To take all necessary and appropriate action, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, as well as incitement to hostility and violence, with particular regard to members of religious minorities in all parts of the world;

“(l) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in the society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history,

traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

“(m) To prevent any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief that impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and to detect signs of intolerance that may lead to discrimination based on religion or belief;

“16. *Welcomes and encourages* initiatives by the media to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief;

“17. *Stresses* the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and welcomes different initiatives in this regard, including the Alliance of Civilizations initiative and the programmes led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

“18. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of all actors in society, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and further encourages their work in promoting freedom of religion or belief, in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution and in promoting religious tolerance;

“19. *Recommends* that States, the United Nations and other actors, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in as many different languages as possible, and promote its implementation;

“20. *Welcomes* the work and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on freedom of religion or belief on the relationship between freedom of religion or belief and equality between men and women;

“21. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to respond favourably to his requests to visit their countries and to provide all information and follow-up necessary for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

“22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the resources necessary to fully discharge his mandate;

“23. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

“24. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of human rights’.”

95. At its 54th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.49/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.49](#) and Benin, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Georgia, Israel, Madagascar, Monaco, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine and Uruguay.

96. At the same meeting, the representative of Lithuania orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

(a) At the end of the fourth preambular paragraph, the words “in particular its General Comment on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion” were deleted;

(b) The order of operative paragraphs 5 and 6 was reversed;

(c) At the end of operative paragraph 13 (a), the words “in particular those occurring in countries experiencing conflict” were deleted;

(d) In operative paragraph 14 (a), the words “the right to freely practise one’s religion, including the right to change one’s religion or belief” were replaced by the words “the right to freely choose and practise one’s religion”;

(e) At the end of operative paragraph 19, the words “on the relationship between freedom of religion or belief and equality between men and women” were deleted.

97. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.49/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution XIV).

98. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Djibouti (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and the Sudan, as well as by the observer for the Holy See (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

O. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.50](#) and Rev.1

99. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Germany, on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled “National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights” ([A/C.3/68/L.50](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling its previous resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the most recent of which was resolution [66/169](#) of 19 December 2011, and those of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning national institutions and their role in the promotion and protection of human rights, the most recent

of which are Human Rights Council resolutions [20/14](#) of 5 July 2012 and [23/17](#) of 13 June 2013,

“Welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in the creation and strengthening of independent, pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

“Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (‘the Paris Principles’),

“Reaffirming the important role that such national institutions play and will continue to play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in strengthening participation and the rule of law and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

“Recalling its resolution [67/163](#) of 20 December 2012 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

“Recognizing the important role of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in assisting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, guided by the Paris Principles, and recognizing also in this regard the potential for strengthened and complementary cooperation among the United Nations, the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and those national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

“Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, which reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities and their role in preventing and remedying human rights violations, in disseminating information on human rights and in education in human rights,

“Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

“Bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, and that all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

“Recalling the programme of action adopted by national institutions, at their meeting held in Vienna in June 1993 during the World Conference on Human Rights, for the promotion and protection of human rights, in which it was recommended that United Nations activities and programmes should be reinforced to meet the requests for assistance from States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

“Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council on national institutions for the promotion and

protection of human rights and on the process currently utilized by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to accredit national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles,

“Welcoming the strengthening in all regions of regional cooperation among national human rights institutions, and noting with appreciation the continuing work of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions,

“1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the conclusions contained therein;

“2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the development of effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles;

“3. *Recognizes* the role of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in working together with Governments to ensure full respect for human rights at the national level, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights mechanisms;

“4. *Welcomes* the increasingly important role of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in supporting cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights;

“5. *Recognizes* the role of national human rights institutions, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles, in the continued monitoring of existing legislation and the provision of consistent information to the State about its impact on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations;

“6. *Also recognizes* the role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisals, thus support cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion of human rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms;

“7. *Recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

“8. *Encourages* Member States to establish effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

“9. *Welcomes* the growing number of States establishing or considering the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and welcomes in particular the growing number of States that have accepted recommendations to establish national institutions compliant with the Paris Principles made through the universal periodic review and, where relevant, by treaty bodies and special procedures;

“10. *Encourages* national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights established by Member States to continue to play an active role in preventing and combating all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international instruments;

“11. *Recognizes* that national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of the activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting about serious or systematic violations in their countries;

“12. *Recognizes* the role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Human Rights Council, including its universal periodic review mechanism, in both preparation and follow-up, and the special procedures, as well as in the human rights treaty bodies, in accordance with Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005;

“13. *Welcomes* the strengthening of opportunities to contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council for national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, as stipulated in the Council review outcome document adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution [65/281](#) of 17 June 2011, and encourages national human rights institutions to make use of these participatory opportunities;

“14. *Welcomes* the contribution of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to the work of the United Nations, inter alia, of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the ongoing intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system;

“15. *Encourages* national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to continue to participate in and to contribute to deliberations in all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates, including the deliberations that should lead to the designing of the post-2015 development agenda;

“16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to focus in his next report to the General Assembly on the current participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles in the work of the Assembly and related processes, with a view to exploring the feasibility of enabling national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to

participate independently in relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates and based on practices and arrangements agreed upon in Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005, while ensuring their most effective contribution;

“17. *Stresses* the importance of the financial and administrative independence and stability of national human rights institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and notes with satisfaction the efforts of those States that have provided their national institutions with more autonomy and independence, including by giving them an investigative role or enhancing such a role, and encourages other Governments to consider taking similar steps;

“18. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions;

“19. *Underlines* the importance of the autonomy and independence of Ombudsman institutions, encourages increased cooperation between national human rights institutions and regional and international associations of Ombudsmen, and also encourages Ombudsman institutions to actively draw on the standards enumerated in international instruments and the Paris Principles to strengthen their independence and increase their capacity to act as national human rights protection mechanisms;

“20. *Commends* the high priority given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to work on national human rights institutions, encourages the High Commissioner, in view of the expanded activities relating to national institutions, to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made and budgetary resources provided to continue and further extend activities in support of national institutions, and invites Governments to contribute additional voluntary funds to that end;

“21. *Encourages* all United Nations human rights mechanisms as well as agencies, funds and programmes to work within their respective mandates with Member States and national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights with respect to, inter alia, projects in the area of good governance and the rule of law, and in this regard welcomes the efforts made by the High Commissioner to develop partnerships in support of national institutions, including the tripartite partnership among the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Coordinating Committee;

“22. *Welcomes* the important role played by the International Coordinating Committee, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in assisting Governments, when requested, in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles, in assessing the conformity of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles, and in providing technical assistance to strengthen national human rights institutions, upon request, with a view to

enhancing their compliance with the Paris Principles, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, to follow up on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee to enable national human rights institutions to fully comply with the Paris Principles in both law and practice;

“23. *Encourages* national institutions, including Ombudsman and mediator institutions, to seek accreditation status through the International Coordinating Committee;

“24. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions and to support the work of the International Coordinating Committee and its regional coordinating networks in this regard, including through support for the relevant technical assistance programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner;

“25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance necessary for holding international and regional meetings of national institutions, including meetings of the International Coordinating Committee, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner;

“26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.”

100. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.50/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.50](#) and Austria, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Iceland, Lebanon, New Zealand, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Switzerland, Thailand and Tunisia. Subsequently, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Madagascar, Nigeria, Ukraine, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

101. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.50/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XV).

P. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.51](#)

102. At the 43rd meeting, on 7 November, the representative of Austria, on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities” ([A/C.3/68/L.51](#)). Subsequently, Argentina, Benin, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Eritrea, Georgia, Greece, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mauritius, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia,

Timor-Leste, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

103. At the 47th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Austria orally revised the draft resolution by adding, at the end of the ninth preambular paragraph, the words “and recalling the paragraphs in its resolution [67/292](#) of 24 July 2013 on multilingualism relating to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, recognizing that multilingualism is a means of preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally”.

104. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.51](#) as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution XVI).

Q. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.52](#) and Rev.1

105. At the 47th meeting, on 19 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cuba, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Yemen, introduced a draft resolution entitled “United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region” ([A/C.3/68/L.52](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

“Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

“Recalling also its resolutions [32/127](#) of 16 December 1977, [51/102](#) of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

“Recalling further its resolutions [60/153](#) of 16 December 2005 and [67/162](#) of 20 December 2012,

“Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

“Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

“Noting that the developments in the Middle East and North Africa have generated growing demand for the services of the Centre, which as a result will not be able to discharge its mandate effectively,

“*Concurring* with the view of the Secretary-General that the Centre will be unable to effectively discharge its mandate and crucial role in the region,

“*Mindful* of the vastness and diversity of needs in the field of human rights in South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need of the Centre for more predictable funding in order to discharge its mandate fully and effectively,

“1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;

“2. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the successful human rights capacity-building activities, training and educational programmes and regional consultations conducted by the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region;

“3. *Recognizes with appreciation* the tangible achievements of the Centre and the impact of the assistance that it has provided through a number of training activities and regional consultations on United Nations human rights mechanisms, human trafficking, the media and human rights education;

“4. *Underlines* the role of the Centre as a source of regional proficiency and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in the Arabic language, which require additional resources and the reinforcement of its activities;

“5. *Expresses* particular concern that the current capacity of the Centre to provide continuous follow-up assistance to the countries of the region, supported exclusively by voluntary contributions, appears insufficient to enable it to respond appropriately and in a timely and sustainable manner to increasing requests from Member States;

“6. *Reaffirms* the request contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution [67/162](#), and requests the Secretary-General to further strengthen the Centre, without any further delay, in order to ensure the full implementation of its mandate;

“7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.”

106. At its 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.52/Rev.1](#)), submitted by Australia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Cameroon, Comoros, Cuba, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Yemen.

107. At the same meeting, the attention of the Committee was drawn to a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, contained in document [A/C.3/68/L.74/Rev.1](#).

108. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.52/Rev.1](#) by a recorded vote of 170 to 1, with 5 abstentions (see para. 146, draft resolution XVII). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against:

Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining:

Angola, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Namibia, Togo, Zimbabwe.

109. Before the vote, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bahrain (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Qatar and the United States; after the vote, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Iran (Islamic Republic of) (see [A/C.3/68/SR.52](#)).

R. Draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.53

110. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, as well as Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Slovenia and Spain, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of Human Rights Learning" ([A/C.3/68/L.53](#)) and orally revised the text by replacing operative paragraph 8, which read:

“8. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and Member States to include human rights education and learning in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda”,

with the following text:

“8. *Invites* the United Nations system, as well as Member States, to give due consideration to human rights education and learning in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda”.

111. Subsequently, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

112. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.53](#), as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution XVIII).

S. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.54](#)

113. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Cameroon, on behalf of Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Haiti, Liberia, Mauritania, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa” ([A/C.3/68/L.54](#)). Subsequently, Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Montenegro, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Senegal, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, the Sudan, Togo, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

114. At its 47th meeting, on 19 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.54](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XIX).

T. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.58](#)

115. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, the Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order” ([A/C.3/68/L.58](#)). Subsequently Algeria, Angola,

Bangladesh, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Somalia, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Vanuatu and Viet Nam joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

116. At its 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.58](#) by a recorded vote of 120 to 54, with 5 abstentions (see para. 146, draft resolution XX). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, Peru, Samoa.

117. Before the vote, a statement was made by the representative of Lithuania, on behalf of the European Union; after the vote, a statement was made by the representative of the United States (see [A/C.3/68/SR.52](#)).

U. Draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.59](#)

118. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Angola, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, the Comoros, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity" ([A/C.3/68/L.59](#)). Subsequently, Algeria, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Uganda and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

119. At its 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.59](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XXI).

V. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.60](#) and [Rev.1](#)

120. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Cuba, on behalf of Angola, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, China, the Comoros, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gabon, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libya, Mali, Monaco, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "The right to food" ([A/C.3/68/L.60](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

"Reaffirming also all previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

"Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

“Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

“Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,

“Reaffirming the concrete recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,

“Reaffirming also the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,

“Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

“Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food and nutrition security and poverty eradication,

“Reiterating, as in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Declaration of the World Food Summit, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that endanger food and nutrition security,

“Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food and nutrition security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

“Recognizing that the complex character of the global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food is threatened to be violated on a substantial scale, is a combination of several major factors, such as the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States,

“Resolved to act to ensure that the human rights perspective is taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the global food crisis,

“Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

“Emphasizing that a multisectoral approach that integrates nutrition across all sectors, including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, social protection and education, as well as a gender perspective, is critical to achieving global food and nutrition security and the realization of the right to food,

“Recalling the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security by the Committee on World Food Security at its 38th session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

“Stressing the importance of reversing the continuing decline of official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

“Convinced that the elimination of the current distortions in the agricultural trading system will allow local producers and poor farmers to compete and sell their products, thereby facilitating the realization of the right to adequate food,

“Recognizing the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and the right to food for all,

“Recognizing also the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the full realization of the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

“Taking note of the final declaration adopted at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Porto Alegre, Brazil, on 10 March 2006,

“Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

“Acknowledging the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

“1. Reaffirms that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

“2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

“3. *Considers it intolerable* that, as estimated by the United Nations Children’s Fund, more than one third of the children who die every year before the age of 5 do so from hunger-related illness, that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of people who are chronically undernourished is about 842 million worldwide, and that an additional 1 billion people are suffering from serious malnutrition, including as a result of the global food crisis, while, according to the latter organization, the planet could produce enough food to feed everyone around the world;

“4. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects of the world food crisis continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of this crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially on least developed countries;

“5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013*, the number of hungry people in the world remains unacceptably high and 98 per cent of undernourished people in the world live in developing countries;

“6. *Expresses its concern* that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food and nutrition insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

“7. *Encourages* all States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular where they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and ensuring that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership, as well as full and equal access to education, science and technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families;

“8. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

“9. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

“10. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes which are aimed at

combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy, and children and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of two years;

“11. *Encourages* all States to take steps with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

“12. *Recognizes* the advances reached through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

“13. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and public investment in rural development are essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investments in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts;

“14. *Recognizes* the critical contribution made by the fisheries sector to the realization of the right to food and to food security, and the contribution of small-scale fishers to the local food security of coastal communities;

“15. *Also recognizes* that 80 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas and 50 per cent are small-scale farm-holders, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access of their products to national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

“16. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;

“17. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture as a matter of priority;

“18. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives

of indigenous peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face in achieving the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

“19. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts such as, inter alia, ‘food sovereignty’ and their relation with food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

“20. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all, including in the ongoing negotiations in different fields;

“21. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting the enjoyment of the right to food;

“22. *Takes note with appreciation* of the growing movement, in different regions of the world, towards the adoption of framework laws, national strategies and measures in support of the full realization of the right to food for all;

“23. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

“24. *Calls for* the early conclusion and a successful, development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization as a contribution to creating international conditions that permit the full realization of the right to food;

“25. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

“26. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as non-communicable diseases;

“27. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and once again invites all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the necessary funding to realize the aim of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, as well as the right to food as set

out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

“28. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, including the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

“29. *Urges* States to give adequate priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

“30. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock, and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs and to the provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations, for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

“31. *Also stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security, while being mindful of the obligation of Member States to promote and protect the right to food;

“32. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across different regions, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions, including Southern Africa;

“33. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food;

“34. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;

“35. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as extended by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 13/4 of 24 March 2010;

“36. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

“37. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights, and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

“38. *Recalls* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant), in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

“39. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,⁶ represent a practical tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

“40. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

“41. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food within his existing mandate;

“42. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate, inter alia, through the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

“43. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of human rights’.”

121. At its 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/68/L.60/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.60 and Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Austria, the Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Costa Rica,

Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Germany, Greece, Fiji, Finland, France, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Vanuatu.

122. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.60/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XXII).

123. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Cuba; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Canada (see [A/C.3/68/SR.52](#)).

W. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.61](#) and [Rev.1](#)

124. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Egypt, Guatemala, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Paraguay and Peru, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism" ([A/C.3/68/L.61](#)), which read:

"The General Assembly,

"Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

"Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

"Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

"Reaffirming the fundamental importance, including in response to terrorism and the fear of terrorism, of respecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,

"Reaffirming also that States are under the obligation to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

"Reaffirming further that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

"Reiterating the important contribution of measures taken at all levels against terrorism, consistent with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, to the functioning of democratic institutions and the maintenance of peace and security and thereby to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the need to continue this fight, including through strengthening international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in this respect,

“Deeply deploring the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of the fight against terrorism, as well as violations of international refugee and humanitarian law,

“Noting with concern measures that can undermine human rights and the rule of law, such as the detention of persons suspected of acts of terrorism in the absence of a legal basis for detention and due process guarantees, the deprivation of liberty that amounts to placing a detained person outside the protection of the law, the trial of suspects without fundamental judicial guarantees, the illegal deprivation of liberty and transfer of individuals suspected of terrorist activities, and the return of suspects to countries without individual assessment of the risk of there being substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of subjection to torture, and limitations to effective scrutiny of counter-terrorism measures,

“Stressing that all measures used in the fight against terrorism, including the profiling of individuals, memorandums of understanding and other transfer agreements or arrangements, must be in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

“Stressing also that a criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, including due process and fair trial guarantees, is one of the best means for effectively countering terrorism and ensuring accountability,

“Recalling article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

“Reaffirming its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable, and renewing its commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

“Recognizing that respect for all human rights, respect for democracy and respect for the rule of law are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

“Emphasizing the importance of properly interpreting and implementing the obligations of States with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and of abiding strictly by the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, in the fight against terrorism,

“Recalling its resolution [67/99](#) of 14 December 2012 and Human Rights Council resolution [19/19](#) of 23 March 2012 and other relevant resolutions and decisions as stated in the preamble to resolution [65/221](#) of 21 December 2012,

and welcoming the efforts of all relevant stakeholders to implement those resolutions,

“Recalling also its resolution 60/288 of 8 September 2006, by which it adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and its resolution 66/282 of 29 June 2012 on the review of the Strategy, and reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism, recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but complementary and mutually reinforcing, and stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism,

“Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 22/8 of 21 March 2013, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

“Recalling its resolution 64/115 of 16 December 2009 and the annex thereto entitled ‘Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations’, in particular the provisions of the annex regarding listing and delisting procedures,

“1. Reaffirms that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

“2. Deeply deplores the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims and their families, expresses its profound solidarity with them, and stresses the importance of providing them with assistance and other measures to protect, respect and fulfil their human rights;

“3. Expresses serious concern at the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as of international refugee and humanitarian law, committed in the context of countering terrorism;

“4. Reaffirms that all counter-terrorism measures should be implemented in accordance with international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, thereby taking into full consideration the human rights of all, including persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and in this regard must not be discriminatory on grounds such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin;

“5. Also reaffirms the obligation of States, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to respect certain rights as non-derogable in any circumstances, recalls, in regard to all other Covenant rights, that any measures derogating from the provisions of the Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, and underlines the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations, and in this regard calls upon States to raise awareness about the importance of these obligations among national authorities involved in combating terrorism;

“6. Urges States, while countering terrorism:

“(a) To fully comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, with regard to the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

“(b) To take all steps necessary to ensure that persons deprived of liberty, regardless of the place of arrest or detention, benefit from the guarantees to which they are entitled under international law, including the review of the detention and other fundamental judicial guarantees;

“(c) To ensure that no form of deprivation of liberty places a detained person outside the protection of the law, and to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person, in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;

“(d) To take all steps necessary to ensure the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and the entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or release;

“(e) To treat all prisoners in all places of detention in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;

“(f) To respect the right of persons to equality before the law, courts and tribunals and to a fair trial as provided for in international law, including international human rights law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and international humanitarian and refugee law;

“(g) To safeguard the right to privacy in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights and humanitarian law, and to take measures to ensure that interferences with or restrictions on such right are necessary, proportionate, adequately regulated by law and subject to effective judicial review and oversight and appropriate redress;

“(h) To protect all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, bearing in mind that certain counter-terrorism measures may have an impact on the enjoyment of these rights;

“(i) To ensure that guidelines and practices in all border control operations and other pre-entry mechanisms are clear and fully respect their obligations under international law, particularly international refugee and human rights law, towards persons seeking international protection;

“(j) To fully respect non-refoulement obligations under international refugee and human rights law and, at the same time, to review, with full respect for these obligations and other legal safeguards, the validity of a refugee status decision in an individual case if credible and relevant evidence comes to light that indicates that the person in question has committed any criminal acts, including terrorist acts, falling under the exclusion clauses under international refugee law;

“(k) To refrain from returning persons, including in cases related to terrorism, to their countries of origin or to a third State whenever such transfer would be contrary to their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, including in cases

where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of subjection to torture, or where their life or freedom would be threatened, in violation of international refugee law, on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, bearing in mind obligations that States may have to prosecute individuals not returned;

“(l) Insofar as such an act runs contrary to their obligations under international law, not to expose individuals to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by way of return to another country;

“(m) To ensure that their laws criminalizing acts of terrorism are accessible, formulated with precision, non-discriminatory, non-retroactive and in accordance with international law, including human rights law;

“(n) Not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law, including on racial, ethnic and/or religious grounds;

“(o) To ensure that the interrogation methods used against terrorism suspects are consistent with their international obligations and are reviewed on a regular basis to prevent the risk of violations of their obligations under international law, including international human rights, and refugee and humanitarian law;

“(p) To ensure that any person who alleges that his or her human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated has access to a fair procedure for seeking an effective and enforceable remedy within a reasonable time and that victims of such violations receive adequate, effective and prompt reparations, which should include, as appropriate, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition, where appropriate, including, in cases where the violation potentially constitutes a crime under international or national law, bringing those responsible to justice;

“(q) To ensure due process guarantees, consistent with all relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto in their respective fields of applicability;

“(r) To shape, review and implement all counter-terrorism measures in accordance with the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination;

“(s) To ensure that any measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft, comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and human rights law, including provisions regulating the use of force, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality in cases when humanitarian law applies;

“7. *Also urges* States, while countering terrorism, to take into account relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on human rights, and encourages them to give due consideration to the recommendations of the

special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and to the relevant comments and views of United Nations human rights treaty bodies;

“8. *Welcomes* the entry into force of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the implementation of which will make a significant contribution in support of the rule of law in countering terrorism, including by prohibiting places of secret detention, and encourages all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

“9. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, the implementation of which will make a significant contribution in support of the rule of law in countering terrorism;

“10. *Calls upon* the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;

“11. *Recognizes* the need to continue ensuring that fair and clear procedures under the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime are strengthened in order to enhance their efficiency and transparency, and welcomes and encourages the ongoing efforts of the Security Council in support of these objectives, including by supporting the enhanced role of the office of the ombudsperson and continuing to review all the names of individuals and entities in the regime, while emphasizing the importance of these sanctions in countering terrorism;

“12. *Urges* States, while ensuring full compliance with their international obligations, to ensure the rule of law and to include adequate human rights guarantees in their national procedures for the listing of individuals and entities with a view to combating terrorism;

“13. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, which refers to the use of remotely piloted aircraft, recalls the duty of States to protect civilians, and in this regard stresses the importance of States to conduct prompt, independent and impartial fact-finding inquiries whenever there are plausible indications of possible breaches of their obligations under international law while countering terrorism;

“14. *Also welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur, which refers to the compatibility of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson established by the Security Council by its resolution 1904 (2009) with international human rights norms;

“15. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including by raising awareness, inter alia, through regular dialogue, about the need to respect human rights and the rule of law while

countering terrorism and support the exchange of best practices to promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in all aspects of counter-terrorism, including, as appropriate, those identified by the Special Rapporteur in his report submitted to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 15/15;

“16. *Welcomes* the ongoing dialogue established in the context of the fight against terrorism between the Security Council and its Counter-Terrorism Committee and the relevant bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages the Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee to strengthen the links, cooperation and dialogue with relevant human rights bodies, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, other relevant special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and relevant treaty bodies, giving due regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in their ongoing work relating to counter-terrorism;

“17. *Calls upon* States and other relevant actors, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, inter alia, reaffirms respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism;

“18. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its efforts to ensure that the United Nations can better coordinate and enhance its support to Member States in their efforts to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights, and refugee and humanitarian law while countering terrorism, and to encourage the Working Groups of the Task Force to incorporate a human rights perspective into their work;

“19. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular those participating in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which provide technical assistance, upon request, consistent with their mandates, related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, to step up their efforts to ensure respect for international human rights and refugee and humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law, as an element of technical assistance, including in the adoption and implementation of legislative and other measures by States;

“20. *Urges* relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, to step up their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism in accordance with relevant national legislation;

“21. *Calls upon* international, regional and subregional organizations to strengthen information-sharing, coordination and cooperation in promoting the

protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law while countering terrorism;

“22. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, submitted pursuant to resolution [65/221](#);

“23. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to make recommendations, in the context of his mandate, with regard to preventing, combating and redressing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of countering terrorism and to continue to report and engage in interactive dialogues on an annual basis with the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in accordance with their programmes of work;

“24. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteur and providing the information requested, and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to his requests to visit their countries, as well as to cooperate with other relevant procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council regarding the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

“25. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement the mandate given to her in General Assembly resolution [60/158](#) of 16 December 2005, and requests her to continue her efforts in this regard;

“26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

“27. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of human rights’.”

125. At its 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.61/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.61](#) and Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

126. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.61/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XXIII).

127. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Mexico; after the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Pakistan (see [A/C.3/68/SR.52](#)).

X. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.62](#) and [Rev.1](#)

128. At the 44th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Mexico, on behalf of Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Senegal and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Protection of migrants” ([A/C.3/68/L.62](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling all its previous resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution [67/172](#) of 20 December 2012, as well as its resolutions [66/128](#) of 19 December 2011 on violence against women migrant workers and [67/185](#) of 20 December 2012 on promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolution [23/20](#) of 14 June 2013,

“Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race,

“Reaffirming also that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

“Recalling all relevant international instruments, particularly the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, which has contributed in great measure to the international system for the protection of migrants,

“Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled ‘The future we want’, in which States are called upon to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability,

“Recalling further the provisions concerning migrants contained in the outcome documents of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which recognizes that

migrant workers are among the most affected and vulnerable in the context of financial and economic crises,

“Recalling Commission on Population and Development resolutions 2006/2 of 10 May 2006 and 2009/1 of 3 April 2009, as well as its resolution 2013/1 of 26 April 2013 on new trends in migration: demographic aspects,

“Taking note of advisory opinion OC-16/99 of 1 October 1999 on the Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law and advisory opinion OC-18/03 of 17 September 2003 on the Juridical Condition and Rights of Undocumented Migrants, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,

“Taking note also of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 March 2004 in the case concerning *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals* and the Judgment of the Court of 19 January 2009 regarding the request for interpretation of the *Avena* Judgment, and recalling the obligations of States reaffirmed in both decisions,

“Underlining the importance of the Human Rights Council in promoting respect for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including migrants,

“Recognizing that women represent almost half of all international migrants, and in this regard recognizing also that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development in countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

“Recognizing also the importance of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013, and the relevance of the declaration adopted by the General Assembly, which highlighted the importance of the inclusion of migration in the post-2015 development agenda, with a focus on human rights,

“Bearing in mind that the seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Sweden in May 2014, will focus on the theme ‘Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development’ and will take into consideration the results of the High-level Dialogue,

“Recognizing the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies and their communities of origin, as well as the need to identify appropriate means of maximizing development benefits and responding to the challenges that migration poses to countries of origin, transit and destination, especially in the light of the impact of the financial and economic crisis, and committing to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with applicable protections and to strengthening mechanisms for international cooperation,

“Emphasizing the global character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in this regard, as appropriate, and the need to protect the human rights of all migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy and take place in a context of continued security concerns,

“Bearing in mind the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims,

“Affirming that crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication,

“Bearing in mind that policies and initiatives on the issue of migration, including those that refer to the orderly management of migration, should promote holistic approaches that take into account the causes, costs for the countries of origin, benefits and consequences of the phenomenon, as well as full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants,

“Stressing the importance of regulations and laws regarding irregular migration, at all levels of government, being in accordance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law,

“Stressing also the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, and expressing its concern at measures which, including in the context of policies aimed at reducing irregular migration, treat irregular migration as a criminal offence rather than as an administrative infraction where the effect of doing so is to deny migrants full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard recalling that sanctions and the treatment of irregular migrants should be commensurate with the infraction,

“Aware that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent restrictive immigration policies, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt servitude and abandonment,

“Recognizing the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

“Concerned about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those who are unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who place themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect the human rights of those migrants,

“Recognizing the importance of having a comprehensive and balanced approach to international migration, and bearing in mind that migration enriches the economic, political, social and cultural fabric of States and the historical and cultural ties that exist among some regions,

“Recognizing also the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination under international human rights law,

“Underlining the importance for States, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration in order to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing dangerous means to cross international borders,

“1. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

“2. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises on international migration and migrants, and in that regard urges Governments to combat unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families;

“3. *Reaffirms* the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under the International Covenants on Human Rights, and in this regard:

“(a) Strongly condemns the acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts;

“(b) Expresses concern about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

“(c) Calls upon States to ensure that their laws and policies, including in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fully respect the human rights of migrants;

“(d) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention;

“(e) Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions;

“4. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, and therefore:

“(a) Calls upon all States to respect the human rights and the inherent dignity of migrants and to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and, where necessary, to review detention periods in order to reduce them in cases of undocumented migration and to adopt, where applicable, alternative measures to detention, which have been successfully implemented by some States;

“(b) Urges all States to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of liberty of migrants by individuals or groups;

“(c) Requests States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, and to train public officials who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with the law;

“(d) Calls upon States to prosecute, in conformity with applicable law, acts of violation of the human rights of migrants and their families, such as arbitrary detention, torture and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions, during their transit from the country of origin to the country of destination and vice versa, including their transit across national borders;

“(e) Underlines the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

“(f) Reaffirms emphatically the duty of States parties to ensure full respect for and observance of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, in particular with regard to the right of all foreign nationals, regardless of their migration status, to communicate with a consular official of the country of origin in case of arrest, imprisonment, custody or detention, and the obligation of the receiving State to inform the foreign national without delay of his or her rights under the Convention;

“(g) Requests all States, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers’ labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

“(h) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization;

“(i) Encourages all States to remove unlawful obstacles, where they exist, that may prevent the safe, transparent, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances, earnings, assets and pensions of migrants to their country of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation and agreements, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede such transfers;

“(j) Recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to him or her;

“5. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in this regard:

“(a) Expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law and contrary to international standards;

“(b) Also expresses its concern about the high level of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and their accomplices as well as other members of organized crime entities and, in this context, the denial of rights and justice to migrants who have suffered from abuse;

“(c) Welcomes immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

“(d) Calls upon States that have not already done so to provide for the protection of the human rights of women migrant workers, to promote fair labour conditions and to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation;

“(e) Encourages States to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers and to facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology;

“(f) Encourages all States to develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the measures necessary to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration;

“(g) Calls upon States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

“(h) Encourages all States to prevent and eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation at all levels of government, and, while taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to foster the

successful integration of migrant children into the education system and the removal of barriers to their education in host countries and countries of origin;

“(i) Urges States to ensure that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, and to take into account, in conformity with their international obligations and commitments, the principle of the best interests of the child and family reunification;

“(j) Urges States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementing protocols thereto to implement them fully, and calls upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them as a matter of priority;

“6. *Encourages* States to take into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration when designing and implementing their migration policies;

“7. *Also encourages* States to protect victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping, trafficking and, in some instances, smuggling, including, where applicable, through the implementation of programmes and policies that guarantee protection and access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance;

“8. *Further encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and to take further effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude or exploitation, which may also include debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour, and also encourages Member States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate and combat such trafficking and smuggling;

“9. *Stresses* the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the protection of the human rights of migrants, and therefore:

“(a) Requests all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants;

“(b) Encourages States to take the measures necessary to achieve policy coherence on migration at the national, regional and international levels, including by ensuring coordinated child protection policies and systems across borders that are in full compliance with international human rights law;

“(c) Also encourages States to further strengthen their cooperation in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

“(d) Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

“10. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of migration and development in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda through, inter alia, integrating a human rights perspective and mainstreaming a gender perspective, and therefore requests Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants and the Global Migration Group, to consider international migration in the debates held in the context of the preparatory process that will define the post-2015 development agenda;

“11. *Encourages* States, relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to continue and to enhance their dialogue in relevant international meetings with a view to strengthening and making more inclusive public policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, including those of migrants;

“12. *Encourages* Governments and international organizations to implement the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in order to ensure that the human rights and human development aspects of migration are adequately integrated into national, regional and international development policies;

“13. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of human rights’, as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

“14. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to submit his report to the General Assembly and to engage in an interactive dialogue at its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled ‘Promotion and protection of human rights’;

“15. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session in accordance with resolution [67/172](#);

“16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in that report an analysis of ways and means of promoting and protecting the rights of migrant children that ensure that the

best interest of the child is a primary consideration, particularly in the case of unaccompanied migrant children and children separated from their families.”

129. At its 52nd meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.3/68/L.62/Rev.1](#)), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.62](#) and Bangladesh, Belarus, Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Morocco, Nicaragua, the Philippines, Portugal and Uganda. Subsequently, Algeria, Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Malawi, Tajikistan and Tunisia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

130. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.62/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XXIV).

131. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Mexico; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States and Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union) (see [A/C.3/68/SR.52](#)).

Y. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.63](#) and [Rev.1](#)

132. At the 46th meeting, on 14 November, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons” ([A/C.3/68/L.63](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Recalling that internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border,

“Recognizing that internally displaced persons are to enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country,

“Deeply disturbed by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, for reasons including armed conflict, generalized violence, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenges that this is creating for the international community,

“Recognizing that natural disasters are a cause of internal displacement, and concerned about factors, such as climate change, that are expected to exacerbate the impact of natural hazards and climate-related events,

“Recognizing also that the consequences of hazards can be prevented or substantially mitigated by integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national development policies and programmes,

“Conscious of the human rights, humanitarian and development dimensions, as well as the possible peacebuilding dimension, of internal displacement, including in long-term displacement situations, the often heightened vulnerability of women and children as well as persons with disabilities, and the responsibilities of States and the international community to strengthen further their protection and assistance,

“Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, including through the facilitation of durable solutions, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

“Reaffirming that all persons, including those internally displaced, have the right to freedom of movement and residence and should be protected against arbitrary displacement,

“Noting the international community’s growing awareness of the issue of internally displaced persons worldwide, including the millions living in protracted situations of displacement, many of them outside camp settings in urban areas, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance and protection to internally displaced persons and support to local host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement and finding durable solutions for internally displaced persons within their own countries, including voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country,

“Recalling the relevant norms of international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,

“Recalling also the relevance of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977, as a vital legal framework for the protection of and assistance to civilians in armed conflict and under foreign occupation, including internally displaced persons,

“Welcoming the increasing dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

“Deploring practices of forced displacement and their negative consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by

large groups of populations, and recalling the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that define the deportation or forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity and the unlawful deportation, transfer or ordering of the displacement of the civilian population as war crimes,

“Expressing its appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have supported and facilitated the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and of his predecessor, the former Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and, according to their roles and responsibilities, have helped to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

“Welcoming the continuing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and national Governments and the relevant offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as with other international and regional organizations, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better strategies for, protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons,

“Acknowledging with appreciation the important and independent contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in cooperation with national Governments and relevant international bodies,

“Welcoming also the priorities set by the Special Rapporteur as contained in his report to the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth session and the two strategic objectives of supporting Governments in developing regional and national instruments on internal displacement, such as the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), and facilitating viable durable solutions to internally displaced persons, including through the engagement of development actors,

“Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement,

“Recalling also its resolution 66/165 of 19 December 2011 and Human Rights Council resolutions 20/9 of 5 July 2012 and 23/8 of 13 June 2013,

“1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

“2. Commends the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far, for the catalytic role that he plays in raising the level of awareness about the plight of internally displaced persons and for his ongoing efforts to address their development and other specific needs, including through the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system;

“3. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue his analysis of the root causes of internal displacement and of the needs and human rights of those displaced, measures of prevention, including early warning, and ways to strengthen protection and assistance, as well as durable solutions for internally displaced persons, and, in the latter regard, to use in his activities the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and also encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to promote comprehensive strategies, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

“4. *Recognizes* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, among other factors, contribute to human displacement, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent displacement or to provide assistance and protection to those who are forced to flee;

“5. *Calls upon* States to provide durable solutions, including within their national development plans, and encourages strengthened international cooperation, in particular between humanitarian and development actors, including through the provision of resources and expertise to assist affected countries, in particular developing countries, in their national efforts and policies related to assistance, protection and rehabilitation for internally displaced persons, including through the integration of the human rights and needs of internally displaced persons into both rural and urban development strategies and their participation in the design and implementation of those strategies;

“6. *Expresses particular concern* that many internally displaced children, particularly girls, lack access to education in all phases of displacement owing to attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, insecurity, loss of documentation, language barriers and discrimination, and calls upon States, in cooperation with all other relevant actors, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, to ensure the right to a quality education, including primary and secondary education, for internally displaced children, without discrimination of any kind, as well as to support existing schools to enable them to include internally displaced persons, and calls upon parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools and other educational institutions and to refrain from undertaking actions that could adversely affect the protection of these buildings against direct attacks;

“7. *Expresses deep concern* about the full range of threats and human rights violations and abuses experienced by internally displaced women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, recognizing that those women and girls who are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged may be

specifically targeted or at increased risk of violence, and recognizes the need to provide better support to victims and to support both national and international efforts to build the capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict;

“8. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe, to address the protection, assistance and development needs of internally displaced persons and to find durable solutions for them, and encourages regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Special Rapporteur;

“9. *Also welcomes* the adoption and entry into force of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which builds on the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa, encourages African States to consider signing and/or ratifying the Convention, and encourages other regional mechanisms to consider the development of similar regional normative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons;

“10. *Recognizes* that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for their internally displaced persons, thus contributing to their national, economic and social development processes, and encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the Special Rapporteur, relevant international and regional organizations and donor countries to continue to support international, regional and national efforts to meet the needs of internally displaced persons on the basis of solidarity, the principles of international cooperation and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and to ensure that humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development assistance efforts are appropriately funded;

“11. *Expresses particular concern* about the grave problems faced by many internally displaced women and children, especially violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in persons, forced recruitment and abduction, and encourages the continued commitment of the Special Rapporteur to promote action to address their particular assistance, protection and development needs, as well as those of other groups with special needs, such as severely traumatized individuals, older persons and persons with disabilities, taking into account all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

“12. *Emphasizes* the importance of consultation with internally displaced persons and host communities by Governments and other relevant actors, in accordance with their specific mandates, during all phases of displacement, as well as the participation of internally displaced persons, where appropriate, in policies, programmes and activities pertaining to them, taking into account the

primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

“13. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to ensure and support in particular the full and meaningful participation of internally displaced women, at all levels of decision-making processes and in all activities that have a direct impact on their lives, in all aspects of internal displacement, including the promotion and protection of human rights, the prevention of human rights violations and the design and implementation of durable solutions;

“14. *Notes* the importance of taking the human rights and the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons into consideration, when appropriate, in peace processes, and emphasizes that durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through voluntary return, sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation processes and their active participation, as appropriate, in the peace process, are necessary elements of effective peacebuilding;

“15. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard, and continues to urge the Commission to intensify its efforts, within its mandate, in cooperation with national and transitional Governments and in consultation with the relevant United Nations entities, to incorporate the rights and the specific needs of internally displaced persons, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as related land and property issues, when advising on or proposing country-specific peacebuilding strategies for post-conflict situations in cases under consideration;

“16. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, welcomes the fact that an increasing number of States, United Nations organizations and regional and non-governmental organizations are applying them as a standard, and encourages all relevant actors to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement;

“17. *Welcomes* the use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by the Special Rapporteur in his dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests him to continue his efforts to further the dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of domestic legislation and policies;

“18. *Expresses its appreciation* that an increasing number of States have adopted domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement, encourages States to continue to do so in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way and consistent with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, including through the identification of a national focal point within the Government for issues of internal displacement and the allocation of budget resources, and encourages the international community and national

actors to provide financial support and cooperation to Governments, upon request, in this regard;

“19. *Urges* all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the Special Rapporteur, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, and to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur for visits so as to enable him to continue and enhance dialogue with Governments in addressing situations of internal displacement, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

“20. *Calls upon* Governments to give serious consideration, in dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, to the recommendations and suggestions addressed to them, in accordance with his mandate, and to inform him of measures taken thereon;

“21. *Also calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons and to facilitate the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in these respects by, inter alia, ensuring the rapid, safe and unhindered access of humanitarian personnel, supplies and equipment, including by simplifying and expediting procedures, in order to allow humanitarian personnel to perform efficiently their task of assisting internally displaced persons, further improving access to internally displaced persons and maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for internally displaced persons where they exist;

“22. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for the coordination of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the inter-agency cluster system, welcomes continued initiatives taken in order to ensure better protection, assistance and development strategies for internally displaced persons, as well as better coordination of activities regarding them, and emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenges of internal displacement;

“23. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and humanitarian assistance, human rights and development organizations to enhance their collaboration and coordination, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and United Nations country teams in countries with situations of internal displacement, and to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur, and requests the continued participation of the Special Rapporteur in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

“24. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian agencies, donors, development actors and other providers of development assistance to continue to work together, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, including long-term development assistance for the implementation of durable solutions, takes note of the decision by the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of 4 October 2011 endorsing the preliminary framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict, notes the rolling-out of the decision

in select countries, and calls for United Nations agencies implementing the decision to cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur in that regard and to use the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in a manner that compliments the decision of the Policy Committee;

“25. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to the issue of internally displaced persons in the consolidated appeals process, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

“26. *Also notes with appreciation* the increasing role of national human rights institutions in assisting internally displaced persons and in promoting and protecting their human rights;

“27. *Recognizes* the need to collect reliable data, disaggregated by age, sex, diversity and location, on internally displaced persons in order to improve policy, programming and response to internal displacement and, in this respect, the relevance of the inter-agency Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service and the global database on internally displaced persons maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre;

“28. *Encourages* Governments, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations Humanitarian coordinators and country teams to ensure the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations, collaborating with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, requesting the support of the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service and providing financial resources, as appropriate in these respects;

“29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur, from within existing resources, with all assistance necessary to carry out his mandate effectively, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other relevant United Nations offices and agencies, to continue to support the Special Rapporteur;

“30. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to seek the contributions of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to create a more stable basis for his work;

“31. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

“32. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons at its seventieth session.”

133. At its 49th meeting, on 21 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution (A/C.3/68/L.63/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.63 and Armenia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Ecuador, France, Grenada, Honduras, Italy, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nigeria, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand, Ukraine and Vanuatu.

134. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.63/Rev.1](#) (see para. 146, draft resolution XXV).

135. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Norway; after the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Pakistan and the Sudan (see [A/C.3/68/SR.49](#)).

Z. Draft resolutions [A/C.3/68/L.64](#) and Rev.1 and amendments thereto contained in documents [A/C.3/68/L.80](#) to [A/C.3/68/L.91](#)

136. At the 49th meeting, on 21 November, the representative of Norway, on behalf of Albania, Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Uruguay, introduced a draft resolution entitled “Protecting women human rights defenders” ([A/C.3/68/L.64](#)), which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

“Recalling its resolution [53/144](#) of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms annexed to that resolution, and reiterating the fundamental importance of the Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

“Recalling also all previous resolutions on this subject, including its resolution [66/164](#) of 19 December 2011 and Human Rights Council resolutions [16/5](#) of 24 March 2011 and [22/6](#) of 21 March 2013,

“Recalling further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their review outcomes, as well as the agreed conclusions and resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

“Welcoming the attention given by the Human Rights Council to the importance of women human rights defenders and of ensuring their protection and enabling their work in recent resolutions and the panel discussion on women human rights defenders convened on 26 June 2012,

“Acknowledging that women of all ages who engage in the defence of all human rights and all people who engage in the defence of the rights of women and those related to gender, individually and in association with others, play an important role, at the local, national, regional and international levels, including in addressing all forms of human rights violations, combating impunity, fighting poverty and discrimination, and promoting access to justice, democracy, the full participation of women in society, tolerance, human dignity and the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on

the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

“Noting with deep concern that in many countries persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms, including women human rights defenders, frequently face threats and harassment and suffer insecurity as a result of those activities, including through restrictions on freedom of association or expression or the right to peaceful assembly, or abuse of civil or criminal proceedings,

“Gravely concerned that women human rights defenders are at risk of and suffer violations and abuses, including systematic violations of their fundamental rights to life, liberty and security of person, to psychological and physical integrity, to privacy and respect for private and family life and to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly, and in addition can experience gender-based violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence, harassment and verbal abuse and attacks on reputation, online and offline, at the hands of State actors, including law enforcement personnel and security forces, and non-State actors, such as those related to family and community, in both public and private spheres,

“Deeply concerned that historical and structural inequalities in power relations and discrimination against women, as well as various forms of extremism, have direct implications for the status and treatment of women, and that some women human rights defenders’ rights are violated and their work stigmatized owing to discriminatory practices and social norms that serve to condone violence against women or perpetuate practices involving such violence,

“Gravely concerned that impunity for violations against women human rights defenders persists owing to factors including a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, taboos with regard to gender-specific violations and abuses such as sexual violence and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses, and a lack of recognition of the legitimate role of women human rights defenders, all of which entrench or institutionalize gender discrimination,

“Concerned that all forms of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, can lead to the targeting or vulnerability to violence of women human rights defenders, who are prone to multiple, intersecting or aggravated forms of discrimination and disadvantage,

“Aware that information-technology-related violations, abuses and violence against women, including women human rights defenders, such as online harassment, cyberstalking, violation of privacy, censorship and hacking of e-mail accounts, mobile phones and other electronic devices, with a view to discrediting them and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them, are a growing concern and a manifestation of systemic gender-based discrimination, requiring effective responses compliant with human rights,

“Recalling the obligation of States to take concrete steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence, including gender-based violence, by State and non-State actors against all those engaged in the promotion and protection

of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women human rights defenders, who face particular risks of violence,

“Mindful that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application should enable the work of women human rights defenders, including by avoiding any criminalization or stigmatization of the role, behaviours and activities of women human rights defenders and the communities of which they are a part or on whose behalf they work, as well as avoiding impediments, obstructions, restrictions or selective enforcement thereof contrary to international human rights law,

“Underlining the need for all appropriate measures to be taken to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women, in accordance with international human rights law, thereby addressing harmful attitudes, customs, practices and gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate violence against women, including women human rights defenders,

“Reaffirming that the empowerment, autonomy and advancement of women and the improvement of their political, social and economic status are essential to respect for all human rights and the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable government, democratic institutions and sustainable development in all areas of life,

“Welcoming the opportunity afforded by the post-2015 development agenda for the global community to advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including gender equality and non-discrimination, as well as real and effective participation in decision-making processes,

“1. *Calls upon* all States to promote, translate and give full effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, including by taking appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect women human rights defenders;

“2. *Welcomes* the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, including in relation to women human rights defenders, and recalls with appreciation related reports of her predecessor, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders;

“3. *Stresses* that respect and support for the activities of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, is essential to the overall enjoyment of human rights, and condemns all human rights violations and abuses committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“4. *Expresses particular concern* about systemic and structural discrimination and violence faced by women human rights defenders of all ages, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure their protection and to integrate a gender perspective into their efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights;

“5. *Urges* States to acknowledge publicly the important and legitimate role of women human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and development, as an essential component of ensuring their protection, including by publicly condemning violence and discrimination against women human rights defenders;

“6. *Calls upon* States to exercise due diligence in preventing violations and abuses against women human rights defenders and in combating impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses, including gender-based violence, committed by State and non-State actors, online as well as offline, are promptly and impartially brought to justice;

“7. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights are not criminalized or met with limitations in contravention of international human rights law and that women human rights defenders are not prevented from enjoying universal human rights owing to their work, including by ensuring that all legal provisions, administrative measures and policies affecting women human rights defenders are clearly defined, determinable and non retroactive and that legislation aimed at preserving public morals is compatible with international human rights law;

“8. *Reiterates* the right of anyone, individually and in association with others, to defend the human rights of women, and urges States to promote and protect the human rights of all women, including their right to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence, and to adopt and accelerate the implementation of laws, policies and programmes which protect and enable their enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms, including their reproductive rights, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and their review outcomes;

“9. *Underlines* the fundamental principle of the independence of the judiciary, and that procedural safeguards must be in place in accordance with international human rights law in order to protect women human rights defenders from unwarranted criminal action and sanction as a result of their work in line with the Declaration;

“10. *Urges* States to strengthen and implement legal, policy and other measures to promote gender equality, empower women and promote their autonomy and to promote and protect the equal participation and full involvement and leadership of women in society, including in the defence of human rights through women human rights defenders, and facilitate their active participation in decision-making processes, including peace, transitional justice, political transition, constitutional reform and development processes;

“11. *Invites* leaders in all sectors of society and in their respective communities, including political, military, social and religious leaders and leaders in business and the media, to express public support for the important role of women human rights defenders and the legitimacy of their work;

“12. *Calls upon* States to implement, effectively and expeditiously, Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#), [1889 \(2009\)](#), [1960 \(2010\)](#), [2106 \(2013\)](#) and [2122 \(2013\)](#) on women and peace and

security, including through the provision of gender-sensitivity training for police officers and law enforcement personnel, inter alia, on the barriers that women human rights defenders face in gaining access to justice, ensuring the inclusion of sexual violence in the definition of acts prohibited by ceasefires and in provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, as a step towards the effective protection of women human rights defenders;

“13. *Strongly calls upon* all States to refrain from, and ensure adequate protection from, any act of intimidation or reprisal against women human rights defenders who cooperate, have cooperated or seek to cooperate with international institutions, including their family members and associates, and reaffirms the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with subregional, regional and international bodies, in particular the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms;

“14. *Urges* States to develop and put in place comprehensive, sustainable and gender-sensitive public policies and programmes that support and protect women human rights defenders, including by providing adequate resources for immediate and long-term protection and making sure that these can be mobilized in a flexible and timely manner to guarantee effective physical and psychological protection, while also extending protection measures to their relatives, including children, and otherwise to take into account the role of many women human rights defenders as the main or sole caregiver in their families;

“15. *Emphasizes* the need for the participation of women human rights defenders in the development of effective policies and programmes related to their protection, recognizing their independence and expertise with regard to their own needs, and the need to create and strengthen mechanisms for consultation and dialogue with women human rights defenders, including focal points for human rights defenders within the public administration, for example, through national women’s mechanisms where they exist;

“16. *Urges* States to adopt and implement policies and programmes that provide women human rights defenders with access to effective remedies, including by ensuring:

“(a) The effective participation of women human rights defenders in all initiatives, including transitional justice processes, to secure accountability for violations and abuses, and also ensuring that the guarantee of non-recurrence incorporates overcoming the root causes of gender-based violations in everyday life and institutions;

“(b) Adequate access to comprehensive support services for those women human rights defenders who experience violence, including shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, medical care and legal and social services;

“(c) That women human rights defenders who are victims of sexual and other forms of violence are attended to by adequately trained and equipped personnel with gender sensitivity and expertise and are consulted during each step of the process;

“(d) That women human rights defenders are able to avoid and escape situations of violence, including by preventing the recurrence of such violence in the exercise of their important and legitimate role in accordance with the present resolution;

“17. *Also urges* States to promote and support projects to improve and further develop the documentation and monitoring of cases of violations against women human rights defenders, including by ensuring the safety of journalists, and to provide adequate support and resources for those working to protect women human rights defenders, such as government agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society, including national and international non-governmental organizations;

“18. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to support the documentation of violations against women human rights defenders and to integrate a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of all programmes and other interventions related to human rights defenders, including through consultations with the relevant stakeholders;

“19. *Encourages* regional protection mechanisms to promote projects to improve and further develop the documentation of cases of violations against women human rights defenders and to ensure that programmes for the security and protection of human rights defenders integrate a gender perspective and address the specific risks and security needs of women human rights defenders;

“20. *Encourages* United Nations bodies, agencies and other entities, in consultation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to address the situation of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in their work and to contribute to the effective implementation of the Declaration;

“21. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate, including in the context of country visits and through suggestions on ways and means of ensuring the protection of women human rights defenders;

“22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on her activities to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, in accordance with her mandate;

“23. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.”

137. At its 54th meeting, on 27 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled “Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders” (A/C.3/68/L.64/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/68/L.64 and Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives,

Malta, the Marshall Islands, the Netherlands, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Vanuatu, which read:

“The General Assembly,

“Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

“Recalling its resolution 53/144 of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms annexed to that resolution, and reiterating the fundamental importance of the Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

“Recalling also all previous resolutions on this subject, including its resolution 66/164 of 19 December 2011 and Human Rights Council resolutions 16/5 of 24 March 2011 and 22/6 of 21 March 2013,

“Recalling further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their review outcomes, as well as the agreed conclusions and resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

“Acknowledging the attention given by the Human Rights Council to the importance of women human rights defenders and of ensuring their protection and enabling their work in recent resolutions, and noting the panel discussion on women human rights defenders convened on 26 June 2012,

“Acknowledging that women of all ages who engage in the defence of all human rights and all people who engage in the defence of the rights of women and in issues related to gender equality, herein referred to as women human rights defenders, individually and in association with others, play an important role, at the local, national, regional and international levels, in the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

“Noting with deep concern that in many countries persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms, including women human rights defenders, frequently face threats and harassment and suffer insecurity as a result of those activities, including through the curtailment of freedom of association or expression or the right to peaceful assembly, or abuse of civil or criminal proceedings,

“Gravely concerned that women human rights defenders are at risk of and suffer violations and abuses, including systematic violations and abuses of their fundamental rights to life, liberty and security of person, to psychological

and physical integrity, to privacy and respect for private and family life and to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly, and in addition can experience gender-based violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence, harassment and verbal abuse and attacks on reputation, online and offline, by State actors, including law enforcement personnel and security forces, and non-State actors, such as those related to family and community, in both public and private spheres,

“Deeply concerned that historical and structural inequalities in power relations and discrimination against women, as well as various forms of extremism, have direct implications for the status and treatment of women, and that some women human rights defenders’ rights are violated or abused and their work stigmatized owing to discriminatory practices and those social norms or patterns that serve to condone violence against women or perpetuate practices involving such violence,

“Gravely concerned that impunity for violations and abuses against women human rights defenders persists owing to factors including a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, social barriers and constraints with regard to addressing gender-based violence, including sexual violence and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses, and a lack of recognition of the legitimate role of women human rights defenders, all of which entrench or institutionalize gender discrimination,

“Concerned that all forms of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, can lead to the targeting or vulnerability to violence of women human rights defenders, who are prone to multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination,

“Aware that information-technology-related violations, abuses, discrimination and violence against women, including women human rights defenders, such as online harassment, cyberstalking, violation of privacy, censorship and hacking of e mail accounts, mobile phones and other electronic devices, with a view to discrediting them and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them, are a growing concern and can be a manifestation of systemic gender-based discrimination, requiring effective responses compliant with human rights,

“Stressing the obligation of States to take concrete steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence, including gender-based violence, against all those engaged in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women human rights defenders, who face particular risks of violence,

“Mindful that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application should enable the work of women human rights defenders, including by avoiding any criminalization or stigmatization of the important activities and legitimate role of women human rights defenders and the communities of which they are a part or on whose behalf they work, as well as avoiding impediments, obstructions, restrictions or selective enforcement thereof contrary to international human rights law,

“Recalling that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms rests with the State, and reaffirming

that national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations of the State in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the juridical framework within which human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, conduct their activities,

“Gravely concerned that, in some instances, national security and counter-terrorism legislation and other measures, such as laws regulating civil society organizations, have been misused to target human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, or have hindered their work and endangered their safety in a manner contrary to international law,

“Recognizing the urgent need to address, and to take concrete steps to prevent and stop, the use of legislation to hinder or limit unduly the ability of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, to exercise their work, including by reviewing and, where necessary, amending relevant legislation and its implementation in order to ensure compliance with international human rights law,

“Underlining the need for all appropriate measures to be taken to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women, in accordance with international human rights law, thereby addressing harmful attitudes, customs, practices and gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate violence against women, including women human rights defenders,

“Reaffirming that the empowerment, autonomy and advancement of women and the improvement of their political, social, legal and economic status are essential to respect for all human rights, the growth and prosperity of society and the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable government, democratic institutions and sustainable development in all areas of life,

“Recognizing the valuable work of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in promoting civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development,

“Welcoming the opportunity afforded by the post-2015 development agenda for the global community to advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including gender equality and non-discrimination, as well as real and effective participation, including equal political participation, in decision-making processes,

“Welcoming the steps taken by some States towards the adoption of national policies or legislation for the protection of individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and defending human rights, including as follow-up to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council,

“1. Calls upon all States to promote, translate and give full effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and

Fundamental Freedoms, including by taking appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect women human rights defenders;

“2. *Welcomes* the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, noting the particular attention given to women human rights defenders, and recalls related reports of her predecessor, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights defenders;

“3. *Stresses* that respect and support for the activities of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, is essential to the overall enjoyment of human rights, and condemns all human rights violations and abuses committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms;

“4. *Expresses particular concern* about systemic and structural discrimination and violence faced by women human rights defenders of all ages, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure their protection and to integrate a gender perspective into their efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights;

“5. *Reiterates strongly* the right of anyone, individually and in association with others, to defend the human rights of women in all their aspects, and stresses the important role of women human rights defenders in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, to which everyone is entitled without distinction of any kind, including in addressing all forms of human rights violations, combating impunity, fighting poverty and discrimination, and promoting access to justice, democracy, the full participation of women in society, tolerance, human dignity and the right to development, while emphasizing that everyone shall respect the human rights of others in accordance with the rights as well as the duties and responsibilities set out in the Declaration;

“6. *Urges* States to acknowledge publicly the important and legitimate role of women human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and development, as an essential component of ensuring their protection, including by publicly condemning violence and discrimination against women human rights defenders;

“7. *Calls upon* States to ensure that human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, can perform their important role in the context of peaceful protests, in accordance with national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law, and in this regard to ensure that no one is subject to excessive or indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary arrest or detention, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enforced disappearance, abuse of criminal and civil proceedings or threats of such acts;

“8. *Also calls upon* States to exercise due diligence in preventing violations and abuses against human rights defenders and in combating impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses, including gender-based violence and threats against women human rights defenders, committed by State and non-State actors, including online, are promptly brought to justice through impartial investigations;

“9. *Further calls upon* States to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights are not criminalized or met with limitations in contravention of international human rights law and that women human rights defenders are not prevented from enjoying universal human rights owing to their work, including by ensuring that all legal provisions, administrative measures and policies affecting women human rights defenders, including those aimed at preserving public morals, are clearly defined, determinable, non-retroactive and compatible with international human rights law;

“10. *Underlines* the fundamental principle of the independence of the judiciary, and that procedural safeguards must be in place in accordance with international human rights law in order to protect women human rights defenders from unwarranted criminal action and sanction as a consequence of their work in line with the Declaration;

“11. *Urges* States to strengthen and implement legal, policy and other measures to promote gender equality, empower women and promote their autonomy and to promote and protect their equal participation, full involvement and leadership in society, including in the defence of human rights;

“12. *Invites* leaders in all sectors of society and in their respective communities, including political, military, social and religious leaders and leaders in business and the media, to express public support for the important role of women human rights defenders and the legitimacy of their work;

“13. *Calls upon* States to implement, effectively and expeditiously, Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#), [1889 \(2009\)](#), [1960 \(2010\)](#), [2106 \(2013\)](#) and [2122 \(2013\)](#) on women and peace and security, including through the provision of gender-sensitivity training for police officers and law enforcement personnel, inter alia, on the barriers that women human rights defenders face in gaining access to justice in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, ensuring the inclusion of sexual violence in the definition of acts prohibited by ceasefires and in provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, as a step towards the effective protection of women, including women human rights defenders;

“14. *Strongly calls upon* States to refrain from, and ensure adequate protection from, any act of intimidation or reprisal against women human rights defenders who cooperate, have cooperated or seek to cooperate with international institutions, including their family members and associates, and reaffirms the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with subregional, regional and international bodies, in particular the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms;

“15. *Urges* States to develop and put in place comprehensive, sustainable and gender-sensitive public policies and programmes that support and protect women human rights defenders, including by providing adequate resources for immediate and long-term protection and making sure that these can be mobilized in a flexible and timely manner to guarantee effective physical and psychological protection, while also extending protection

measures to their relatives, including children, and otherwise to take into account the role of many women human rights defenders as the main or sole caregiver in their families;

“16. *Emphasizes* the need for the participation of women human rights defenders in the development of effective policies and programmes related to their protection, recognizing their independence and expertise with regard to their own needs, and the need to create and strengthen mechanisms for consultation and dialogue with women human rights defenders, such as focal points for human rights defenders within the public administration, for example, through national mechanisms for the advancement of women and girls, where they exist, or other mechanisms, depending on the national and local context;

“17. *Urges* States to adopt and implement policies and programmes that provide women human rights defenders with access to effective remedies, including by ensuring:

“(a) The effective participation of women human rights defenders in all initiatives, including transitional justice processes, to secure accountability for violations and abuses, and also ensuring that the guarantee of non-recurrence incorporates overcoming the root causes of gender-based violations and abuses in everyday life and institutions;

“(b) Adequate access to comprehensive support services for those women human rights defenders who experience violence, including shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, medical care and legal and social services;

“(c) That women human rights defenders who are victims of sexual and other forms of violence are attended to by adequately trained and equipped personnel with gender sensitivity and expertise and are consulted during each step of the process;

“(d) That women human rights defenders are able to avoid situations of violence, including by preventing the occurrence or recurrence of such violence in the exercise of their important and legitimate role in accordance with the present resolution;

“18. *Also urges* States to promote and support projects to improve and further develop the documentation and monitoring of cases of violations against women human rights defenders, including by ensuring the safety of journalists and encouraging the provision of adequate support and resources for those working to protect women human rights defenders, such as government agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society, including national and international non-governmental organizations;

“19. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to support the documentation of violations against women human rights defenders and to integrate a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of all programmes and other interventions related to human rights defenders, including through consultations with the relevant stakeholders;

“20. *Encourages* regional protection mechanisms, where they exist, to promote projects to improve and further develop the documentation of cases of violations against women human rights defenders and to ensure that

programmes for the security and protection of human rights defenders integrate a gender perspective and address the specific risks and security needs of women human rights defenders;

“21. *Encourages* United Nations bodies, agencies and other entities, within their respective mandates and in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to address the situation of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in their work and to contribute to the effective implementation of the Declaration;

“22. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate, including in the context of country visits and through suggestions on ways and means of ensuring the protection of women human rights defenders;

“23. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on her activities to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, in accordance with her mandate;

“24. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.”

138. At the same meeting, the representative of Norway orally revised the draft resolution (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

139. Also at the same meeting, the Chair drew the attention of the Committee to the amendments submitted to draft resolution [A/C.3/68/64/Rev.1](#), as contained in documents [A/C.3/68/L.80](#), [A/C.3/68/L.81](#), [A/C.3/68/L.82](#), [A/C.3/68/L.83](#), [A/C.3/68/L.84](#), [A/C.3/68/L.85](#), [A/C.3/68/L.86](#), [A/C.3/68/L.87](#), [A/C.3/68/L.88](#), [A/C.3/68/L.89](#), [A/C.3/68/L.90](#) and [A/C.3/68/L.91](#).

140. The representative of Norway further orally revised the draft resolution by deleting the thirteenth preambular paragraph (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

141. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Cameroon announced that all amendments had been withdrawn by their sponsors (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

142. Subsequently, the representatives of Ireland and Sweden withdrew their sponsorship of the draft resolution, as orally revised (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

143. Also at the 54th meeting, the representatives of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland withdrew their sponsorship of the draft resolution, as orally revised (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

144. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/68/L.64/Rev.1](#), as orally revised (see para. 146, draft resolution XXVI).

145. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Lithuania (on behalf of the European Union), Uruguay (also on behalf of Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico,

Panama, Paraguay and Peru), the United States, Gabon (on behalf of the Group of African States), Iceland, Canada, the Russian Federation, Bahrain (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Australia, Israel and Switzerland, and by the observer for the Holy See (see [A/C.3/68/SR.54](#)).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

146 The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

The human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [64/292](#) of 28 July 2010, in which it recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights,

Reaffirming the previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, Council resolution [24/18](#) of 27 September 2013,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Reaffirming its commitments to human rights, as expressed in its resolution [55/2](#) of 8 September 2000, entitled “United Nations Millennium Declaration”, and its follow-up resolutions [60/1](#) of 16 September 2005, entitled “2005 World Summit Outcome”, and [65/1](#) of 22 September 2010, entitled “Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals”,

Reaffirming also its resolutions [58/217](#) of 23 December 2003, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for Action, “Water for Life”, 2005-2015, and [65/154](#) of 20 December 2010, by which it proclaimed 2013 as the International Year of Water Cooperation,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development of June 1992 and its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and emphasizing the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Welcoming the holding of the General Assembly plenary meeting of 27 July 2011 entitled “The human right to water and sanitation”,

Welcoming also the proclamation of 19 November as World Toilet Day in the context of “Sanitation for All”, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [67/291](#) of 24 July 2013,

Recalling general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), and the statement on the right to sanitation of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of 19 November 2010, as well as the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Deeply concerned that approximately 768 million people still lack access to improved drinking water sources and that more than 2.5 billion do not have access to improved sanitation facilities, including more than 1.04 billion people who still practice open defecation, as defined by the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children's Fund in their 2013 update on the Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, and that these figures do not fully capture the dimensions of water safety, the affordability of services and the safe management of excreta and wastewater, as well as equality, non-discrimination and differences between urban and rural areas, and therefore underestimate the numbers of those without access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Noting that the target of the Millennium Development Goals of halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water was formally met five years ahead of schedule, and deeply concerned that the world remains off track to meet the sanitation component of the same target, which called for halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to an improved sanitation facility, that by 2015, if current trends continue, the world is set to miss the target by more than half a billion people, and that inexistent or inadequate sanitation facilities and serious deficiencies in water management and wastewater treatment can have a negative impact on water provision and sustainable access to safe drinking water,

Deeply concerned that women and girls often face particular barriers in accessing water and sanitation, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities,

Deeply alarmed that, every year, almost 700,000 children under 5 years of age die, and millions of schooldays are lost, as a result of water- and sanitation-related diseases, and that girls in large parts of the world do not go to school for lack of separate toilets for girls,

Reaffirming the responsibility of States to ensure the promotion and protection of all human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and is inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity,

Acknowledging the importance of equal access to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as an integral component of the realization of all human rights,

1. *Reaffirms* the recognition of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights;

2. *Recognizes* the need to give due consideration to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda, in particular while defining concrete goals, targets and indicators, taking into account an approach that supports the promotion and protection of human rights;

3. *Welcomes* the extension of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation by the Human Rights Council;

4. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and takes note with appreciation in particular of her related reports¹ and her contributions to shaping the post-2015 development agenda and to progressively eliminating inequalities in access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

5. *Takes note of* the recommendation in the report of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, commissioned by the Secretary-General, in which the Panel lists water and sanitation among the indicative goals in the post-2015 development agenda, and also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015",² in which the Secretary-General recognizes the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation as one of the foundations for a decent life;

6. *Calls upon States:*

(a) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(b) To continuously monitor and regularly analyse the status of the realization of the human right to safe drinking water;

(c) To give due consideration to the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the principles of equality and non-discrimination, in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

(d) To ensure the progressive realization of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access, including for individuals belonging to vulnerable and marginalized groups, on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any other grounds and with a view to progressively eliminating inequalities based on factors such as rural-urban disparities, residence in a slum, income levels and other relevant considerations;

(e) To consult with communities on adequate solutions to ensure sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(f) To provide for effective accountability mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause human rights violations or abuses;

7. *Invites* regional and international organizations to complement efforts by States to progressively realize the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

8. *Encourages* Member States to intensify global partnerships for development as means to achieve and sustain the targets of the Millennium Development Goals on water and sanitation;

¹ A/67/270 and A/68/264.

² A/68/202.

9. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to endeavour to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures;

10. *Stresses* the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in particular in the timely achievement of the relevant Millennium Development Goals, and urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the right to safe drinking water and sanitation;

11. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution II

The right to development

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, which expresses, in particular, the determination to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom and, to that end, to employ international mechanisms for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,²

Recalling also the outcomes of all the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986, which confirmed that the right to development is an inalienable human right and that equality of opportunity for development is a prerogative both of nations and of individuals who make up nations, and that the individual is the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Stressing that the year 2013 marks the twentieth anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna, and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action³ reaffirmed the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights, and the individual as the central subject and beneficiary of development,

Reaffirming the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone, as set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2000,⁴

Deeply concerned that the majority of indigenous peoples in the world live in conditions of poverty, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty and inequity on indigenous peoples by ensuring their full and effective inclusion in development and poverty eradication programmes,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development,

Expressing deep concern over the lack of progress in the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, and reaffirming the need for a successful outcome of the Doha Development Round in key areas such as agriculture, market access for non-agricultural products, trade facilitation, development and services,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁴ Resolution 55/2.

Recalling the outcome of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Accra from 20 to 25 April 2008, on the theme “Addressing the opportunities and challenges of globalization for development”,⁵

Recalling also all its previous resolutions, Human Rights Council resolution 21/32 of 28 September 2012,⁶ previous resolutions of the Council and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998⁷ on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development as set out in the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling further the outcome of the eleventh session of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, held in Geneva from 26 to 30 April 2010, as contained in the report of the Working Group⁸ and as referred to in the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,⁹

Recalling the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012, and the previous summits and conferences at which the States members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries stressed the need to operationalize the right to development as a priority,

Reiterating its continuing support for the New Partnership for Africa’s Development¹⁰ as a development framework for Africa,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council and the members of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development in completing the 2008-2010 three-phase road map established by the Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007,¹¹

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights,

Recognizing also that Member States should cooperate with each other in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation for the realization of the right to development and the elimination of obstacles to development and that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to

⁵ See TD/442 and Corr.1 and 2.

⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. III.

⁷ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3* (E/1998/23), chap. II, sect. A.

⁸ A/HRC/15/23.

⁹ A/HRC/15/24.

¹⁰ A/57/304, annex.

¹¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. III, sect. A.

development requires effective development policies at the national level, as well as equitable economic relations and a favourable economic environment at the international level,

Recognizing further that poverty is an affront to human dignity,

Recognizing that extreme poverty and hunger are one of the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for its eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Recognizing also that historical injustices have undeniably contributed to the poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion, economic disparity, instability and insecurity that affect many people in different parts of the world, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing that poverty eradication is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and that poverty is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted and integrated approach in addressing economic, political, social, environmental and institutional dimensions at all levels, especially in the context of the Millennium Development Goal of halving, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than one United States dollar a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹² which provide information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development;

2. *Recognizes* the significance of all the events held to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹³ including the panel discussion on the theme "The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice", held during the eighteenth session of the Human Rights Council;

3. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development, as renewed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [9/3](#) of 24 September 2008, with the recognition that the Working Group may convene annual sessions of five working days and submit its reports to the Council;

4. *Endorses* the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its fourteenth session,¹⁴ and, while reaffirming them, calls for their immediate, full and effective implementation by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant actors, noting also the efforts under way within the framework of the Working Group with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Council in its resolution [4/4](#);¹¹

5. *Emphasizes* the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) of 15 March 2006 establishing the Human Rights Council, and in this regard calls upon the Council to implement the agreement to continue to act to ensure that

¹² A/HRC/24/27.

¹³ Resolution 41/128, annex.

¹⁴ A/HRC/24/37.

its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and also in this regard to lead to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,³ to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Welcomes* the launching, in the Working Group, of the process for considering, revising and refining the draft right-to-development criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria,¹⁵ with the first reading of the draft criteria and operational subcriteria;

7. *Stresses* that the above-mentioned compilations of views, criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

8. *Emphasizes* the importance of the Working Group taking appropriate steps to ensure respect for and practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms, including the elaboration of guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for the consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session,¹⁶ congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

10. *Also stresses* that it is important that the Chair-Rapporteur and the Working Group, in the discharge of their mandates, take into account the need:

(a) To promote the democratization of the system of international governance in order to increase the effective participation of developing countries in international decision-making;

(b) To also promote effective partnerships such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development¹⁰ and other similar initiatives with the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, for the purpose of the realization of their right to development, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(c) To strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international level, while urging all States to undertake at the national level the necessary policy formulation and to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also urging all States to expand and deepen mutually beneficial cooperation in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development in the context of promoting effective international

¹⁵ See A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2.

¹⁶ See E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1, sect. VIII.A.

cooperation for the realization of the right to development, bearing in mind that lasting progress towards the implementation of the right to development requires effective development policies at the national level and a favourable economic environment at the international level;

(d) To consider ways and means to continue to ensure the operationalization of the right to development as a priority;

(e) To mainstream the right to development in the policies and operational activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, as well as in the policies and strategies of the international financial and multilateral trading systems, bearing in mind in this regard that the core principles of the international economic, commercial and financial spheres, such as equity, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, participation and international cooperation, including effective partnerships for development, are indispensable in achieving the right to development and preventing discriminatory treatment arising from political or other non-economic considerations in addressing the issues of concern to the developing countries;

11. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue considering how to ensure follow-up to the work of the former Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the right to development, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights and in compliance with decisions to be taken by the Council;

12. *Invites* Member States and all other stakeholders to participate actively in future sessions of the Social Forum, while recognizing the strong support extended to the Forum at its first four sessions by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;

13. *Reaffirms* the commitment to implement the goals and targets set out in all the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their review processes, in particular those relating to the realization of the right to development, recognizing that the realization of the right to development is critical to achieving the objectives, goals and targets set in those outcome documents;

14. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of the right to development is essential to the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which regards all human rights as universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, places the human person at the centre of development and recognizes that, while development facilitates the enjoyment of all human rights, the lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

15. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights lies with the State, and reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility for their own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

16. *Reaffirms* the primary responsibility of States to create national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development, as well as their commitment to cooperate with each other to that end;

17. *Also reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;

18. *Stresses* the need to strive for greater acceptance, operationalization and realization of the right to development at the international and national levels, and calls upon all States to institute the measures required for the implementation of the right to development as an integral part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

19. *Emphasizes* the critical importance of identifying and analysing obstacles impeding the full realization of the right to development at both the national and international levels;

20. *Affirms* that, while globalization offers both opportunities and challenges, the process of globalization remains deficient in achieving the objectives of integrating all countries into a globalized world, and stresses the need for policies and measures at the national and global levels to respond to the challenges and opportunities of globalization if this process is to be made fully inclusive and equitable;

21. *Recognizes* that, despite continuous efforts on the part of the international community, the gap between developed and developing countries remains unacceptably wide, that most of the developing countries continue to face difficulties in participating in the globalization process and that many risk being marginalized and effectively excluded from its benefits;

22. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development due to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the ongoing international energy, food and financial crises, as well as the increasing challenges posed by global climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities and have adversely affected development gains, in particular in developing countries;

23. *Underlines* the fact that the international community is far from meeting the target set in the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁴ of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, reaffirms the commitment made to meet that target, and emphasizes the principle of international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the goal;

24. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards meeting the targets of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.2 per cent of their gross national product to least developed countries, and encourages developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help to meet development goals and targets;

25. *Recognizes* the need to address market access for developing countries, including in the sectors of agriculture, services and non-agricultural products, in particular those of interest to developing countries;

26. *Calls once again for* the implementation of a desirable pace of meaningful trade liberalization, including in areas under negotiation in the World Trade Organization, the implementation of commitments on implementation-related

issues and concerns, a review of special and differential treatment provisions, with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, the avoidance of new forms of protectionism, and capacity-building and technical assistance for developing countries as important issues in making progress towards the effective implementation of the right to development;

27. *Recognizes* the important link between the international economic, commercial and financial spheres and the realization of the right to development, stresses in this regard the need for good governance and for broadening the base of decision-making at the international level on issues of development concern and the need to fill organizational gaps, as well as to strengthen the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions, and also stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

28. *Also recognizes* that good governance and the rule of law at the national level assist all States in the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, and agrees on the value of the ongoing efforts being made by States to identify and strengthen good governance practices, including transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, that are responsive and appropriate to their needs and aspirations, including in the context of agreed partnership approaches to development, capacity-building and technical assistance;

29. *Further recognizes* the important role and the rights of women and the application of a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue in the process of realizing the right to development, and notes in particular the positive relationship between the education of women and their equal participation in the civil, cultural, economic, political and social activities of the community and the promotion of the right to development;

30. *Stresses* the need for the integration of the rights of children, girls and boys alike, in all policies and programmes and for ensuring the promotion and protection of those rights, especially in areas relating to health, education and the full development of their capacities;

31. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS, adopted on 10 June 2011 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS,¹⁷ stresses that further and additional measures must be taken at the national and international levels to fight HIV and AIDS and other communicable diseases, taking into account ongoing efforts and programmes, and reiterates the need for international assistance in this regard;

32. *Welcomes* the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, adopted on 19 September 2011,¹⁸ with a particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic impacts, particularly for developing countries;

33. *Recalls* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want";¹⁹

¹⁷ Resolution 65/277, annex.

¹⁸ Resolution 66/2, annex.

¹⁹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

34. *Also recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,²⁰ which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and stresses the need to take into consideration the rights of persons with disabilities and the importance of international cooperation in support of national efforts in the realization of the right to development;

35. *Stresses its commitment* to indigenous peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, and reaffirms the commitment to promote their rights in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security, in accordance with recognized international human rights obligations and taking into account, as appropriate, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [61/295](#) of 13 September 2007, and in this regard looks forward to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014;

36. *Recognizes* the need for strong partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector in pursuit of poverty eradication and development, as well as for corporate social responsibility;

37. *Emphasizes* the urgent need for taking concrete and effective measures to prevent, combat and criminalize all forms of corruption at all levels, to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner international transfers of illicitly acquired assets and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,²¹ particularly chapter V thereof, stresses the importance of a genuine political commitment on the part of all Governments through a firm legal framework, and in this context urges States to sign and ratify the Convention as soon as possible and States parties to implement it effectively;

38. *Also emphasizes* the need to strengthen further the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the promotion and realization of the right to development, including by ensuring effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office of the High Commissioner with the necessary resources;

39. *Reaffirms* the request to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in mainstreaming the right to development, to undertake effectively activities aimed at strengthening the global partnership for development among Member States, development agencies and the international development, financial and trade institutions and to reflect those activities in detail in her next report to the Human Rights Council;

40. *Calls upon* the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as the specialized agencies, to mainstream the right to development in their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development in their policies and objectives;

²⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

²¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2349, No. 42146.

41. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

42. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group to present an oral report and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution III

Human rights and cultural diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,

Recalling also its resolutions 54/160 of 17 December 1999, 55/91 of 4 December 2000, 57/204 of 18 December 2002, 58/167 of 22 December 2003, 60/167 of 16 December 2005, 62/155 of 18 December 2007, 64/174 of 18 December 2009 and 66/154 of 19 December 2011, and recalling further its resolutions 54/113 of 10 December 1999, 55/23 of 13 November 2000 and 60/4 of 20 October 2005 concerning the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations,

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 on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,³

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁴

Recalling that, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance,

Welcoming the adoption of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations by its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001,

Welcoming also the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, held on 22 September 2011, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

Welcoming further the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,⁵ together with its

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Fourteenth Session, Paris, 1966, Resolutions*.

⁴ A/68/277.

⁵ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-first Session, Paris, 15 October-3 November 2001*, vol. 1 and corrigendum, *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 25, annex I.

Action Plan,⁶ adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

Recalling the Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 3 and 4 September 2007,

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,

Expressing concern over the adverse impacts of lack of respect for and recognition of cultural diversity on human rights, justice, friendship and the fundamental right to development,

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,

Recognizing also the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the development and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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,

Reaffirming that discriminatory treatment against different cultures and religions is detrimental to the principle of the equality of human beings,

Recognizing that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal values,

Recognizing also that the promotion of the rights of indigenous people and their cultures and traditions will contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations,

Considering that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace, understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred, violence and extremism among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and

⁶ Ibid., annex II.

in the reciprocal influences that 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 a mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material achievements,

Acknowledging the diversity of the world, recognizing that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, acknowledging the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, and, in order to promote international peace and security, committing itself to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different cultures, civilizations and peoples,

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. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of culture to development and the achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption on 8 September 2000 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,⁷ in which Member States consider, inter alia, that tolerance is one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and that it should include the active promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, with human beings respecting one another in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity;

4. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

5. *Affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;

6. *Expresses its determination* to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;

7. *Affirms* that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;

8. *Welcomes* the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in

⁷ Resolution 55/2.

working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity, including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;

9. *Emphasizes* that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations based on equal dignity should be enhanced, through supporting efforts made at the international level, towards reducing confrontation, suppressing xenophobia and promoting respect for diversity, and in that regard also emphasizes that States should oppose all attempts at uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of social or cultural systems and promote dialogue among civilizations, a culture of peace and interfaith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security and development;

10. *Welcomes* the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran, and acknowledges the important role that the Centre plays in the promotion of the universality of all human rights as well as their realization;

11. *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 throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

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

13. *Also emphasizes* that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

14. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

15. *Calls upon* States, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to support and embark on intercultural initiatives on human rights in order to promote all human rights, thus enriching their universality;

16. *Urges* States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

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

18. *Stresses* the necessity of freely using the media and new information and communications technologies to create the conditions for a renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

19. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to bear in mind fully the issues raised in the present resolution in the course of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights;

20. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to support initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights;

21. *Urges* relevant international organizations to conduct studies on how respect for cultural diversity contributes to fostering international solidarity and cooperation among all nations;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

23. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms”.

Draft resolution IV

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993¹ for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recalling its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000² and its resolution 67/169 of 20 December 2012, Human Rights Council resolution 19/33 of 23 March 2012³ and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling also the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,⁴ and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

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

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

¹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

² Resolution 55/2.

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

⁴ Resolution 66/3.

Recalling the adoption of resolution 2000/22 of 18 August 2000, on the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues, by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session,⁵

1. *Reaffirms* that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

8. *Emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in increasing the capacities of Member States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

9. *Calls upon* Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

10. *Urges* States to take measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive

⁵ See E/CN.4/2001/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/46, chap. II, sect. A.

and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

11. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

12. *Takes note* of the holding of the seminar on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights on 15 February 2013, with the participation of States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to continue to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as obstacles and challenges and possible proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation and dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

14. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session.

Draft resolution V
Promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on this question,

Reaffirming the importance of the goal of universal ratification of the United Nations human rights instruments,

Welcoming the significant increase in the number of ratifications of United Nations human rights instruments, and the movement of some treaties towards universal ratification,

Reiterating the importance of the effective functioning of treaty bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments for the full and effective implementation of those instruments,

Recognizing that the equitable geographical distribution of membership is an essential requirement for the effective functioning of the treaty bodies,

Recalling that, with regard to the election of the members of the human rights treaty bodies, the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights recognized the importance of giving consideration in their membership to equitable geographical distribution, gender balance and representation of the principal legal systems and of bearing in mind that the members shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights,

Reaffirming the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, as well as of different political, economic and legal systems,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹

Recognizing that the United Nations pursues multilingualism as a means of promoting, protecting and preserving diversity of languages and cultures globally and that genuine multilingualism promotes unity in diversity and international understanding,

Recalling that the General Assembly and the former Commission on Human Rights encouraged States parties to United Nations human rights treaties, individually and through meetings of States parties, to consider how to give better effect, inter alia, to the principle of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of treaty bodies,

Expressing concern at the regional imbalance in the current composition of the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, as indicated in the report of the Secretary-General,

Reaffirming the importance of increasing efforts to address that imbalance,

Convinced that the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies is perfectly compatible and can be fully

¹ A/68/323.

realized and achieved in harmony with the need to achieve gender balance and the representation of the principal legal systems in those bodies and the high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights of their members,

1. *Reiterates* that the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments should take into account, in their nomination of members to the human rights treaty bodies, that these committees shall be composed of persons of high moral character and recognized competence in the field of human rights, consideration being given to the usefulness of the participation of some persons having legal experience, and to equal representation of women and men, and that members shall serve in their personal capacity, and also reiterates that, in the elections to the human rights treaty bodies, consideration shall be given to equitable geographical distribution of membership and to the representation of the different forms of civilization and of the principal legal systems;

2. *Urges* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments, including the bureau members, to include this matter in the agenda of each meeting and/or conference of States parties to those instruments in order to initiate a debate on ways and means to ensure equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, based on previous recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council and the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Encourages* the States parties to the United Nations human rights instruments to consider and adopt concrete actions, inter alia, the possible establishment of quotas by geographical region for membership of the treaty bodies, thereby ensuring the paramount objective of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of those human rights bodies;

4. *Recommends*, when considering the possible allocation of seats on each treaty body on a regional basis, the introduction of flexible procedures that encompass the following criteria:

(a) Each of the five regional groups established by the General Assembly is allocated seats on each treaty body in equivalent proportion to the number of States parties to the instrument in that group;

(b) There must be provision for periodic revisions of the allocation of seats in order to reflect relative changes in the level of treaty ratification in each regional group;

(c) Automatic periodic revisions should be envisaged in order to avoid amending the text of the instrument when the quotas are revised;

5. *Stresses* that the process needed to achieve the goal of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of human rights treaty bodies can contribute to raising awareness of the importance of gender balance, the representation of the principal legal systems and the principle that the members of the treaty bodies shall be elected and shall serve in their personal capacity, and shall be of high moral character, acknowledged impartiality and recognized competence in the field of human rights;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to submit to the General

Assembly at its seventieth session a comprehensive updated report in this regard, including information on any steps taken by States parties at meetings or conferences of States parties to address the matter of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies, as well as concrete recommendations on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution VI Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on this subject, the most recent of which was resolution 67/170 of 20 December 2012, and Human Rights Council decision 18/120 of 30 September 2011¹ and resolution 24/14 of 27 September 2013, as well as previous resolutions of the Council and the Commission on Human Rights,

Reaffirming the pertinent principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, in which it declared that no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/170,² and recalling the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolutions 52/120 of 12 December 1997³ and 55/110 of 4 December 2000,⁴

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights, and in this regard reaffirming the right to development as an integral part of all human rights,

Recalling the Final Document of the Sixteenth Ministerial Conference and Commemorative Meeting of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 23 to 27 May 2011,⁵ the Final Document of the Sixteenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran from 26 to 31 August 2012,⁶ and those adopted at previous summits and conferences, in which States members of the Movement agreed to oppose and condemn those measures or laws and their continued application, persevere with efforts to effectively reverse them and urge other States to do likewise, as called for by the General Assembly and other United Nations organs, and request States applying those measures or laws to revoke them fully and immediately,

Recalling also that, at the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, States were called upon to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter that creates

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1)*, chap. III.

² A/68/211.

³ A/53/293 and Add.1.

⁴ A/56/207 and Add.1.

⁵ A/65/896-S/2011/407, annex I.

⁶ A/67/506-S/2012/752, annex I.

obstacles to trade relations among States and impedes the full realization of all human rights⁷ and also severely threatens the freedom of trade,

Bearing in mind all the references to this question in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development adopted by the World Summit for Social Development on 12 March 1995,⁸ the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women on 15 September 1995,⁹ the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda adopted by the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) on 14 June 1996,¹⁰ and their five-year reviews,

Expressing concern about the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Expressing grave concern that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities,

Deeply concerned that, despite the recommendations adopted on this question by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and recent major United Nations conferences, and contrary to general international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated and implemented, with all their negative implications for the social humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Bearing in mind all the extraterritorial effects of any unilateral legislative, administrative and economic measures, policies and practices of a coercive nature against the development process and the enhancement of human rights in developing countries, which create obstacles to the full realization of all human rights,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹¹

Recalling article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹² and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and

⁷ See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁸ *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

⁹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹⁰ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹¹ Resolution 41/128, annex.

¹² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Cultural Rights,¹² which provides, inter alia, that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Noting the continuing efforts of the open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council, and reaffirming in particular its criteria, according to which unilateral coercive measures are one of the obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

1. *Urges* all States to cease adopting or implementing any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature, with all their extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹³ and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Strongly urges* States to refrain from promulgating and applying any unilateral economic, financial or trade measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing countries;

3. *Urges* all States not to adopt any unilateral measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that impede the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries, in particular children and women, that hinder their well-being and that create obstacles to the full enjoyment of their human rights, including the right of everyone to a standard of living adequate for his or her health and well-being and his or her right to food, medical care and education and the necessary social services, as well as to ensure that food and medicine are not used as tools for political pressure;

4. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States, and in this context calls upon all Member States neither to recognize those measures nor to apply them, as well as to take administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial applications or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

5. *Condemns* the continuing unilateral application and enforcement by certain Powers of unilateral coercive measures, and rejects those measures, with all their extraterritorial effects, as being tools for political or economic pressure against any country, in particular against developing countries, adopted with a view to preventing those countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems, and because of the negative effects of those measures on the realization of all the human rights of vast sectors of their populations, in particular children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

6. *Expresses grave concern* that, in some countries, the situation of children is adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law and the Charter that create obstacles to trade relations among States, impede the full realization of social and economic development and hinder the well-being of the population in the affected countries, with particular

¹³ Resolution 217 A (III).

consequences for women, children, including adolescents, the elderly and persons with disabilities;

7. *Reaffirms* that essential goods such as food and medicines should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

8. *Calls upon* Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by revoking such measures at the earliest possible time;

9. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

10. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, and the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States proclaimed by the Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX), in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

11. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, and urges the Human Rights Council to take fully into account the negative impact of those measures, including through the enactment of national laws and their extraterritorial application which are not in conformity with international law, in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

12. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions relating to the promotion, realization and protection of the right to development and bearing in mind the continuing impact of unilateral coercive measures on the population of developing countries, to give priority to the present resolution in her annual report to the General Assembly;

13. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the major obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,¹¹ and in this regard calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of national laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries, as recognized by the Working Group on the Right to Development of the Human Rights Council;

14. *Recognizes* that, in the Declaration of Principles adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,¹⁴ States were strongly urged to avoid and refrain from any

¹⁴ A/C.2/59/3, annex, chap. I, sect. A.

unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations in building the information society;

15. *Welcomes* the increased attention paid by the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the negative impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures, and invites the Council to continue to explore ways to address this issue;

16. *Reiterates its support* for the invitation of the Human Rights Council to all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

17. *Reaffirms* the request of the Human Rights Council that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organize a workshop on the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations, in particular their socioeconomic impact on women and children, in the States targeted;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States, to continue to collect their views and information on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations and to submit an in-depth and comprehensive report on the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the full enjoyment of human rights to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, while reiterating once again the need to highlight the practical and preventive measures in this respect;

19. *Decides* to examine the question on a priority basis at its sixty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" of the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution VII

The safety of journalists and the issue of impunity

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and recalling relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,³ as well as the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949⁴ and the Additional Protocols thereto,⁵

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 12 April 2012, in which United Nations agencies, funds and programmes were invited to work with Member States towards 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 resolutions [21/12](#) of 27 September 2012 on the safety of journalists, [20/8](#) of 5 July 2012 on the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet and [24/15](#) of 27 September 2012 on the World Programme for Human Rights Education and Human Rights Council decision [24/116](#) of 26 September 2013 on a panel discussion on the safety of journalists, as well as Security Council resolution [1738 \(2006\)](#) of 23 December 2006,

Taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression⁶ and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions,⁷ submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth session,

Commending the role and the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with regard to the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on good practices on the safety of journalists,⁸ submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

Noting with appreciation the international conference on the safety of journalists held in Warsaw on 23 and 24 April 2013 and its specific recommendations,

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ Resolution 61/177, annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

⁶ A/HRC/20/17.

⁷ A/HRC/20/22 and Corr.1.

⁸ A/HRC/24/23.

Acknowledging that journalism is continuously evolving to include inputs from media institutions, private individuals and a range of organizations that seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, online as well as offline, in the exercise of freedom of opinion and expression, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, thus contributing to shape public debate,

Recognizing the relevance of freedom of expression and of free media in building knowledge-inclusive societies and democracies and in fostering intercultural dialogue, peace and good governance,

Recognizing also that the work of journalists often puts them at specific risk of intimidation, harassment and violence,

Taking note of the good practices of different countries aimed at the protection of journalists, as well as, inter alia, those designed for the protection of human rights defenders that can, where applicable, be relevant to the protection of journalists,

Recognizing that the number of people whose lives are influenced by the way information is presented is significant and that journalism influences public opinion,

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

Recalling in this regard that journalists, media professionals and associated personnel engaged in dangerous professional missions in areas of armed conflict shall be considered as civilians and shall be respected and protected as such, provided that they take no action adversely affecting their status as civilians,

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. *Takes note with appreciation* of 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 2 November as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists;

4. *Requests* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with relevant entities of the United Nations system, and mindful of the provisions of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980, to facilitate the implementation of the International Day in collaboration with Governments and relevant stakeholders;

5. *Urges* Member States to do their utmost to prevent violence against journalists and media workers, to ensure accountability through the conduct of impartial, speedy and effective investigations into all alleged violence against

journalists and media workers falling within their jurisdiction, and to bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice and to ensure that victims have access to appropriate remedies;

6. *Calls upon* States to promote a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference, including by means of: (a) legislative measures; (b) awareness-raising in the judiciary and among law enforcement officers and military personnel, as well as among journalists and in civil society, regarding international human rights and humanitarian law obligations and commitments relating to the safety of journalists; (c) the monitoring and reporting of attacks against journalists; (d) publicly condemning attacks; and (e) dedicating the resources necessary to investigate and prosecute such attacks;

7. *Invites* the relevant agencies, organizations, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to consider identifying focal points for the exchange of information about the implementation of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, in cooperation with Member States and under the overall coordination of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

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

Draft resolution VIII

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Stressing that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for organizing, conducting and ensuring free and fair electoral processes and that Member States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request that international organizations provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose,

Recognizing the importance of fair, periodic and genuine elections, including in new democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower citizens to express their will and to promote successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

Recognizing also that Member States are responsible for ensuring free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering of vote counts, and that all such acts are sanctioned accordingly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution [66/163](#) of 19 December 2011,

Recalling also all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the topic, including resolutions [19/11](#) of 22 March 2012, [19/36](#) of 23 March 2012, [22/10](#) of 21 March 2013 and [24/8](#) of 26 September 2013,

Reaffirming that United Nations electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization are provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

Noting with satisfaction that increasing numbers of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of discerning the will of the people, which builds confidence in representational governance and contributes to greater national peace and stability, and may contribute to regional stability,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948,¹ in particular the principle that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, as well as the right freely to choose representatives through periodic and

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁴ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ and reaffirming in particular that citizens, without distinction of any kind, have the right and the opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors,

Reaffirming also that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of equality, sustainable development, peace and democracy,

Stressing the importance, generally and in the context of promoting fair and free elections, of respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information and media freedom,

Recognizing the need for strengthening democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building in requesting countries, including the capacity to administer fair elections, promote voter education, promote the development of electoral expertise and technology and promote the participation of women on equal terms with men, provide the necessary conditions to ensure the effective and full participation of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, increase citizen participation and provide civic education, including to youth, in requesting countries in order to consolidate and regularize the achievements of previous elections and support subsequent elections,

Noting the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair and transparent democratic processes that protect the rights of peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and opinion,

Noting also that the international community can contribute to the creation of conditions which could foster stability and security throughout the pre-election, election and post-election periods in transitional and post-conflict situations,

Reiterating that transparency is a fundamental basis for free and fair elections, which contribute to the accountability of Governments to their citizens, which, in turn, is an underpinning of democratic societies,

Acknowledging, in this regard, the importance of international observation of elections for the promotion of free and fair elections and its contribution to enhancing the integrity of election processes in requesting countries, to promoting public confidence and electoral participation and to mitigating the potential for election-related disturbances,

² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

Acknowledging also that extending invitations regarding international electoral assistance and/or observation is the sovereign right of Member States, and welcoming the decisions of those States that have requested such assistance and/or observation,

Welcoming the support provided by Member States to the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations, inter alia, through the provision of electoral experts, including electoral commission staff, and observers, as well as through contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance, the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Recognizing that electoral assistance, particularly through appropriate, sustainable and cost-effective electoral technology, supports the electoral processes of developing countries,

Recognizing also the coordination challenges posed by the multiplicity of actors involved in electoral assistance both within and outside the United Nations,

Welcoming the contributions made by international and regional organizations and also by non-governmental organizations to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,

Recognizing that the importance of the links that exist between development, peace, human rights, the rule of law and democratic governance, including the holding of free and fair elections, should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;⁶
2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided upon request to Member States by the United Nations, and requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs and legislation of requesting countries to develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes, recognizing that the responsibility for organizing free and fair elections lies with Governments;
3. *Reaffirms* that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner;
4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, in his role as United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, to continue to regularly inform Member States about the requests received and the nature of any assistance provided;
5. *Requests* that the United Nations continue its efforts to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission providing such assistance, including the provision of long-term technical cooperation, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that the results of the mission will be reported comprehensively and consistently;

⁶ A/68/301.

6. *Notes* the importance of adequate resources for the administration of efficient and transparent elections at the national and local levels, and recommends that Member States provide adequate resources for those elections, including considering the possibility of establishing internal funding, where feasible;

7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis;

8. *Calls upon* all States to enhance the political participation of women, accelerate the achievement of equality between men and women and, in all situations, promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men;

9. *Recommends* that, throughout the timespan of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, on the basis of a needs assessment and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes, also bearing in mind that the relevant office may provide additional assistance in the form of mediation and good offices, upon the request of Member States;

10. *Notes with appreciation* the additional efforts being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance, encourages those organizations to share knowledge and experience in order to promote best practices in the assistance they provide and in their reporting on electoral processes, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations that have provided observers or technical experts in support of United Nations electoral assistance efforts;

11. *Acknowledges* the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards of the many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in observing elections, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation;

12. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Trust Fund for Electoral Assistance, and, bearing in mind that the Fund is currently close to depletion, calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the Fund;

13. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters and with the support of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue responding to the evolving nature of requests for assistance and the growing need for specific types of medium-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacity of the requesting Government, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Division with adequate human and financial resources to allow it to carry out its mandate, including to enhance the accessibility and diversity of the roster of electoral experts and the Organization's electoral institutional memory, and to continue to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is able to respond, within its mandate and in close coordination with the Division, to the numerous and increasingly complex and comprehensive requests from Member States for advisory services;

15. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing comprehensive coordination, under the auspices of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, between the Electoral Assistance Division, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Field Support and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure coordination and coherence and avoid duplication of United Nations electoral assistance;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue its democratic governance assistance programmes in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular those that promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and linkages between civil society and Governments;

17. *Reiterates* the role of civil society and the importance of its active engagement in the promotion of democratization, and invites Member States to facilitate the full participation of civil society in electoral processes;

18. *Also reiterates* the importance of reinforced coordination within and outside the United Nations system, and reaffirms the clear leadership role within the United Nations system of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, including in ensuring system-wide coherence and consistency and in strengthening the institutional memory and the development, dissemination and issuance of United Nations electoral assistance policies;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance, and on his efforts to enhance support by the Organization for the democratization process in Member States.

Draft resolution IX

Right to the truth

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Protocols Additional thereto of 1977, and other relevant instruments of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling article 32 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts, which recognizes the right of families to know the fate of their relatives, and article 33 of Additional Protocol I, which provides that the parties to an armed conflict shall search for the persons who have been reported missing, as soon as circumstances permit,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution [60/147](#) of 16 December 2005, in which it adopted the Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law,

Recognizing the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Taking into account Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/66 of 20 April 2005, Human Rights Council decision 2/105 of 27 November 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 9/11 of 18 September 2008, [12/12](#) of 1 October 2009 and [21/7](#) of 27 September 2012 on the right to the truth,

Welcoming the creation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence by the Human Rights Council by its resolution [18/7](#) of 29 September 2011, and the appointment of a mandate holder by the Council at its nineteenth session,

Taking into account Human Rights Council resolutions [10/26](#) of 27 March 2009 and [15/5](#) of 29 September 2010 on forensic genetics and human rights, in which the Council recognized the importance of the utilization of forensic genetics to deal with the issue of impunity within the framework of investigations relating to gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law,

Recalling General Assembly resolution [65/196](#) of 21 December 2010, in which it proclaimed the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims,

Recalling also the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [61/177](#) of 20 December 2006, in particular article 24 (2) thereof, which sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of enforced disappearance, the progress and the results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, article 24 (3), which sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard, and the preamble, which reaffirms the right to

freedom to seek, receive and impart information to that end, and welcoming the entry into force of the Convention on 23 December 2010,

Noting that the Human Rights Committee and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances have recognized the right of the victims of gross violations of human rights and their relatives to the truth about the events that have taken place, including the identification of the perpetrators of the acts that gave rise to such violations,

Recalling the set of principles for the protection and promotion of human rights through action to combat impunity,¹ and taking note with appreciation of the updated version of those principles,²

Stressing that adequate steps should also be taken to identify victims in situations that do not amount to armed conflict, especially in cases of massive or systematic violations of human rights,

Convinced that States should preserve archives and other evidence concerning gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law to facilitate knowledge of such violations, investigation of allegations and the provision of victims with access to an effective remedy in accordance with international law,

Recalling that a specific right to the truth may be characterized differently in some legal systems as the right to know or the right to be informed or freedom of information,

Acknowledging, in cases of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law, the need to study the interrelationships among the right to the truth and the right to access to justice, the right to obtain effective remedy and reparation, and other relevant human rights,

Emphasizing that the public and individuals are entitled to have access, to the fullest extent practicable, to information regarding the actions and decision-making processes of their Government, within the framework of each State's national legal system,

Recognizing the fundamental role of civil society, through its engagement, advocacy and participation in decision-making processes, in promoting and achieving respect for the right to the truth,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of respecting and ensuring the right to the truth so as to contribute to ending impunity and to promote and protect human rights;

2. *Welcomes* the establishment in several States of specific judicial mechanisms and non-judicial mechanisms, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, that complement the justice system, to investigate violations of human rights and violations of international humanitarian law, and appreciates the elaboration and publication of the reports and decisions of these bodies;

3. *Encourages* the States concerned to disseminate, implement and monitor implementation of the recommendations of non-judicial mechanisms, such as truth

¹ E/CN.4/Sub.2/1997/20/Rev.1, annex II.

² E/CN.4/2005/102/Add.1.

and reconciliation commissions, and to provide information regarding compliance with the decisions of judicial mechanisms;

4. *Encourages* other States to consider establishing specific judicial mechanisms and, where appropriate, truth and reconciliation commissions to complement the justice system, to investigate and address gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law;

5. *Encourages* States and international organizations to provide requesting States with necessary and appropriate assistance regarding the right to the truth by means of, among other actions, technical cooperation and the exchange of information concerning administrative, legislative and judicial and non-judicial measures, as well as experiences and best practices that have as a purpose the protection, promotion and implementation of this right, including practices regarding the protection of witnesses and the preservation and management of archives;

6. *Also encourages* States and international organizations to acknowledge the important role of civil society in monitoring the implementation of recommendations of truth commissions, and encourages donors to make the training, support and strengthening of civil society organizations a priority within a comprehensive transitional justice approach;

7. *Urges* all States that have not done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;

8. *Calls upon* States to work in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence in accordance with his mandate, including by extending invitations to the Special Rapporteur;

9. *Welcomes* the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session on selected challenges faced by truth commissions in transitional periods,³ and takes note of the recommendations contained in the report;

10. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to establish a national archival policy that ensures that all archives pertaining to human rights are preserved and protected, and to enact legislation that declares that the documentary heritage of the nation is to be retained and preserved, and creates the framework for managing State records from their creation to their destruction or preservation, and takes note in this respect of ongoing efforts by the Human Rights Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, regional organizations and other stakeholders to systematize existing standards in the area of access to information, the protection and preservation of records and the management of archives;

11. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to invite, from within existing resources, Member States, United Nations organs, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights

³ A/HRC/24/42.

institutions and non-governmental organizations to provide information on good practices in the establishment, preservation and provision of access to national archives on human rights, and to make the information received publicly available in an online database;

12. *Invites* special procedures and other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, in the framework of their mandates, to take into account, as appropriate, the issue of the right to the truth;

13. *Encourages* United Nations agencies, Member States and civil society organizations to exchange experiences and good practices on the subject of the right to truth, with a view to improving the effectiveness of relevant mechanisms and procedures empowered to seek information, assert facts and effectively reveal the truth about what has happened in the aftermath of gross human rights violations and serious violations of international humanitarian law;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to organize an event in observance of the International Day for the Right to the Truth concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims, subject to availability of resources, in order to exchange experiences and good practices on the subject of the right to the truth, with the participation of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

Draft resolution X International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution [61/177](#) of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

Recalling its resolution [47/133](#) of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

Recalling also its resolution [67/180](#) of 20 December 2012, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution [21/4](#) of 27 September 2012,¹

Recalling that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance,

Recalling also that no exceptional circumstance whatsoever may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance,

Recalling further that no one shall be held in secret detention,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

Recalling that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the investigation and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Recalling also that the Convention defines the victim of enforced disappearance as the disappeared person and any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance,

Acknowledging that acts of enforced disappearance are recognized in the Convention as crimes against humanity, in certain circumstances,

Stressing the importance of the work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, and welcoming in this regard the holding of its 100th session in New York from 15 to 19 July 2013,

Acknowledging the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

1. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,² the ratification and the

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/53/Add.1), chap. III.

² Resolution 61/177, annex.

implementation of which will be a significant contribution to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

2. *Welcomes* the fact that 93 States have signed the Convention and 41 have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. *Also welcomes* the holding of the second meeting of the States parties to the Convention on 28 May 2013, and welcomes the panel discussion held on that occasion;

4. *Further welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General;³

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

6. *Requests* United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to continue making efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

7. *Welcomes* the work achieved by the Committee, and in particular the consideration, during its fourth session, of the first reports submitted by States parties under article 29 of the Convention, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to submit their report, to support and promote the work of the Committee and to implement its recommendations;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance⁴ as a body of principles for all States designed to punish enforced disappearances, to prevent their commission and to help victims of such acts and their families to seek fair, prompt and adequate reparation;

9. *Welcomes* the cooperation established between the Working Group and the Committee, within the framework of their respective mandates, and encourages further cooperation in the future;

10. *Takes note with interest* of all the general comments of the Working Group, including the most recent ones on children⁵ and women⁶ affected by enforced disappearances, and recognizes in this regard that enforced disappearance has special consequences for women and vulnerable groups, especially children, as they most often bear the serious economic hardships that usually accompany a disappearance and, when they are subjected to disappearance themselves, they may become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence;

11. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee and the Chair of the Working Group to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its

³ A/68/210.

⁴ Resolution 47/133.

⁵ A/HRC/WGEID/98/1 and Corr.1.

⁶ A/HRC/WGEID/98/2.

sixty-ninth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XI

The right to privacy in the digital age

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Noting that the rapid pace of technological development enables individuals all over the world to use new information and communication technologies and at the same time enhances the capacity of Governments, companies and individuals to undertake surveillance, interception and data collection, which may violate or abuse human rights, in particular the right to privacy, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and is therefore an issue of increasing concern,

Reaffirming the human right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, and recognizing that the exercise of the right to privacy is important for the realization of the right to freedom of expression and to hold opinions without interference, and one of the foundations of a democratic society,

Stressing the importance of the full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, including the fundamental importance of access to information and democratic participation,

Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression,¹ submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-third session, on the implications of States' surveillance of communications on the exercise of the human rights to privacy and to freedom of opinion and expression,

Emphasizing that unlawful or arbitrary surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as unlawful or arbitrary collection of personal data, as highly intrusive acts, violate the rights to privacy and to freedom of expression and may contradict the tenets of a democratic society,

Noting that while concerns about public security may justify the gathering and protection of certain sensitive information, States must ensure full compliance with their obligations under international human rights law,

Deeply concerned at the negative impact that surveillance and/or interception of communications, including extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of communications, as well as the collection of personal data, in particular when carried out on a mass scale, may have on the exercise and enjoyment of human rights,

¹ A/HRC/23/40 and Corr.1.

Reaffirming that States must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism are in compliance with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

1. *Reaffirms* the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

2. *Recognizes* the global and open nature of the Internet and the rapid advancement in information and communications technologies as a driving force in accelerating progress towards development in its various forms;

3. *Affirms* that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, including the right to privacy;

4. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication;

(b) To take measures to put an end to violations of those rights and to create the conditions to prevent such violations, including by ensuring that relevant national legislation complies with their obligations under international human rights law;

(c) To review their procedures, practices and legislation regarding the surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data, including mass surveillance, interception and collection, with a view to upholding the right to privacy by ensuring the full and effective implementation of all their obligations under international human rights law;

(d) To establish or maintain existing independent, effective domestic oversight mechanisms capable of ensuring transparency, as appropriate, and accountability for State surveillance of communications, their interception and the collection of personal data;

5. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report on the protection and promotion of the right to privacy in the context of domestic and extraterritorial surveillance and/or interception of digital communications and the collection of personal data, including on a mass scale, to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, with views and recommendations, to be considered by Member States;

6. *Decides* to examine the question at its sixty-ninth session, under the sub-item entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms" of the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XII

Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing, in particular, the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,² the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance on 8 September 2001,³ the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, adopted on 24 April 2009,⁴ and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, entitled “United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance” of 22 September 2011,⁵

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights⁶ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁶

Recalling further the Declaration on the Right to Development adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [41/128](#) of 4 December 1986,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁷ and the outcome documents of the twenty-third⁸ and twenty-fourth⁹ special sessions of the General Assembly, held in New York from 5 to 10 June 2000 and in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000, respectively,

Recalling also its resolutions [66/154](#) of 19 December 2011 and [67/165](#) of 20 December 2012,

Recalling further Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/17 of 14 April 2005 on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights,¹⁰

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions [17/4](#) of 16 June 2011 on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and [21/5](#) of 27 September 2012 on the contribution of the United Nations system as a whole to the advancement of the business and human rights agenda and the dissemination and

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

³ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

⁴ See A/CONF.211/8, chap. I.

⁵ Resolution 66/3.

⁶ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁷ Resolution 55/2.

⁸ Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

⁹ Resolution S-24/2, annex.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework,

Recognizing 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,

Realizing that globalization affects all countries differently and makes them more exposed to external developments, positive as well as negative, inter alia, in the field of human rights,

Realizing also that globalization is not merely an economic process, but that it also has social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions, which have an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Emphasizing the need to fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement the commitments made in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields, and reaffirming in particular the commitment contained in paragraphs 19 and 47 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹¹ to promote fair globalization and the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization,

Realizing the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind, and aware of the risk that globalization poses more of a threat to cultural diversity if the developing world remains poor and marginalized,

Recognizing also that multilateral mechanisms have a unique role to play in meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization,

Realizing the need to consider the challenges and opportunities linked to globalization with a view to addressing such challenges and building on possible opportunities in order to achieve the full enjoyment of all human rights,

Emphasizing the global character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and the need to protect the human rights of migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy,

Expressing grave concern at the negative impact of international financial turmoil on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly in the light of the continuing global financial and economic crisis, which has an adverse impact on the realization of the internationally agreed

¹¹ Resolution 60/1.

development goals, particularly the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizing that developing countries are in a more vulnerable situation when facing such impact and that regional economic cooperation and development strategies and programmes can play a role in mitigating such impact,

Expressing deep concern at the negative impact of the continuing global food and energy crises and climate change challenges on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights for all,

Recognizing that globalization should be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin the corpus of human rights, such as equity, participation, accountability, non-discrimination at both the national and the international levels, respect for diversity, tolerance and international cooperation and solidarity,

Emphasizing that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full realization and effective enjoyment of human rights, and that its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community,

Acknowledging that there is greater acceptance that the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and that, for many developing countries, excessive debt servicing has severely constrained their capacity to promote social development and to provide basic services to realize economic, social and cultural rights,

Strongly reiterating the determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including those agreed at the Millennium Summit, described as the Millennium Development Goals, which have helped to galvanize efforts towards poverty eradication,

Gravely concerned at the inadequacy of measures to narrow the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries, which has contributed to, inter alia, deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect all human rights,

Emphasizing also that human beings strive for a world that is respectful of human rights and cultural diversity and that, in this regard, they work to ensure that all activities, including those affected by globalization, are consistent with those aims,

1. *Recognizes* that, while globalization, by its impact on, inter alia, the role of the State, may affect human rights, the promotion and protection of all human rights is first and foremost the responsibility of the State;

2. *Emphasizes* that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda and that coherence between national development strategies and international obligations and commitments is imperative for an enabling environment for development and an inclusive and equitable globalization;

3. *Reaffirms* that narrowing the gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is an explicit goal at the national and international levels, as part

of the effort to create an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

4. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to create an environment at both the national and the global levels that is conducive to development and to the eradication of poverty by, inter alia, promoting good governance within each country and at the international level, eliminating protectionism, enhancing transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and committing to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;

5. *Recognizes* the impacts that the global financial and economic crisis is still having on the ability of countries, particularly developing countries, to mobilize resources for development and to address the impact of this crisis, and, in this context, calls upon all States and the international community to alleviate, in an inclusive and development-oriented manner, any negative impacts of this crisis on the realization and the effective enjoyment of all human rights;

6. *Also recognizes* that, while globalization offers great opportunities, the fact that its benefits are very unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed represents an aspect of the process that affects the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries;

7. *Welcomes* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of human rights,¹² which focuses on the liberalization of agricultural trade and its impact on the realization of the right to development, including the right to food, and takes note of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

8. *Reaffirms* the international commitment to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all, today and tomorrow, and reiterates that the relevant United Nations organizations should be assured the resources needed to expand and enhance their food assistance, and support social safety net programmes designed to address hunger and malnutrition, when appropriate, through the use of local or regional purchase;

9. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved;

10. *Recognizes* that the responsible operations of transnational corporations and other business enterprises can contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular economic, social and cultural rights;

11. *Also recognizes* that only through broad and sustained efforts, including policies and measures at the global level to create a shared future based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable and have a human face, thus contributing to the full enjoyment of all human rights;

¹² E/CN.4/2002/54.

12. *Underlines* the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system to strengthen and broaden the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

13. *Affirms* that globalization is a complex process of structural transformation, with numerous interdisciplinary aspects, which has an impact on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;

14. *Also affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that promotes and protects human rights while ensuring respect for the cultural diversity of all;

15. *Underlines*, therefore, the need to continue to analyse the consequences of globalization for the full enjoyment of all human rights;

16. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,¹³ and requests him to continue to seek further the views of Member States and relevant agencies of the United Nations system and to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a substantive report on the subject based on those views, including recommendations on ways to address the impact of globalization on the full enjoyment of all human rights.

¹³ A/68/177.

**Draft resolution XIII
Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization,
discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against
persons, based on religion or belief**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction as to, inter alia, religion or belief,

Reaffirming also the obligation of States to prohibit discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief and to implement measures to guarantee the equal and effective protection of the law,

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

Reaffirming that the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹ provides, inter alia, that everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which shall include freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching,

Reaffirming also the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance, and reaffirming further that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression carries with it special duties and responsibilities, in accordance with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Expressing deep concern at those acts that advocate religious hatred and thereby undermine the spirit of tolerance,

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Reaffirming also that violence can never be an acceptable response to acts of intolerance on the basis of religion or belief,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolutions [16/18](#) of 24 March 2011² and [22/31](#) of 22 March 2013³ and General Assembly resolution [67/178](#) of 20 December 2012,

Deeply concerned about incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons based on their religion or belief in all regions of the world,

Deploring any advocacy of discrimination or violence on the basis of religion or belief,

¹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

³ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

Strongly deploring all acts of violence against persons on the basis of their religion or belief, as well as any such acts directed against their homes, businesses, properties, schools, cultural centres or places of worship,

Strongly deploring, further, all attacks on and in religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights law and international humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Concerned about actions that wilfully exploit tensions or target individuals on the basis of their religion or belief,

Expressing deep concern at the instances of intolerance, discrimination and acts of violence occurring in the world, including cases motivated by discrimination against persons belonging to religious minorities, in addition to the negative projection of the followers of religions and the enforcement of measures that specifically discriminate against persons on the basis of religion or belief,

Expressing concern at the growing manifestations of intolerance based on religion or belief that can generate hatred and violence among individuals from and within different nations, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and in this regard emphasizing the importance of respect for religious and cultural diversity, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue aimed at promoting a culture of tolerance and respect among individuals, societies and nations,

Recognizing the valuable contribution of people of all religions or beliefs to humanity and the contribution that dialogue among religious groups can make towards an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Underlining the fact that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining also the importance of raising awareness about different cultures and religions or beliefs and of education in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of and its respect for religious and cultural diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining further the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

Recognizing that working together to enhance the implementation of existing legal regimes that protect individuals against discrimination and hate crimes, increase interreligious, interfaith and intercultural efforts and expand human rights education is an important first step in combating incidents of intolerance, discrimination and violence against individuals on the basis of religion or belief,

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting intercultural dialogue, as well as the work of the Alliance of Civilizations, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the work of the King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural

Dialogue in Vienna, established on the basis of the purposes and principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,⁴ and acknowledging the important role that the Centre is playing as a platform for the enhancement of interreligious and intercultural dialogue,

Welcoming also, in this regard, all international, regional and national initiatives aimed at promoting interreligious, intercultural and interfaith harmony and combating discrimination against individuals on the basis of religion or belief, including the launching of the Istanbul Process,

Welcoming further the continuation of the organization of workshops and meetings in the framework of the Istanbul Process to discuss the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution 16/18,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief;⁵

2. *Expresses deep concern* at the continued serious instances of derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief, as well as programmes and agendas pursued by extremist individuals, organizations and groups aimed at creating and perpetuating negative stereotypes about religious groups, in particular when condoned by Governments;

3. *Expresses concern* that the number of incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continues to rise around the world, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution and consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;

4. *Condemns* any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

5. *Recognizes* that the open public debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue, at the local, national and international levels can be among the best protections against religious intolerance and can play a positive role in strengthening democracy and combating religious hatred, and expresses its conviction that a continuing dialogue on these issues can help to overcome existing misperceptions;

6. *Also recognizes* the strong need for global awareness about the possible serious implications of incitement to discrimination and violence, which may have serious implications at the national, regional and international levels, and urges all Member States to make renewed efforts to develop educational systems that promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms that enhance tolerance for

⁴ Resolution 217 A (III).

⁵ A/68/546.

religious and cultural diversity, which is fundamental to promoting tolerant, peaceful and harmonious multicultural societies;

7. *Calls upon* all States to take the following actions, as called for by the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect:

(a) Encouraging the creation of collaborative networks to build mutual understanding, promoting dialogue and inspiring constructive action towards shared policy goals and the pursuit of tangible outcomes, such as servicing projects in the fields of education, health, conflict prevention, employment, integration and media education;

(b) Creating an appropriate mechanism within Governments to, inter alia, identify and address potential areas of tension between members of different religious communities, and assisting with conflict prevention and mediation;

(c) Encouraging the training of Government officials in effective outreach strategies;

(d) Encouraging the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of discrimination, and developing strategies to counter those causes;

(e) Speaking out against intolerance, including advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

(f) Adopting measures to criminalize incitement to imminent violence based on religion or belief;

(g) Understanding the need to combat denigration and the negative religious stereotyping of persons, as well as incitement to religious hatred, by strategizing and harmonizing actions at the local, national, regional and international levels through, inter alia, education and awareness-raising;

(h) Recognizing that the open, constructive and respectful debate of ideas, as well as interreligious, interfaith and intercultural dialogue at the local, national, regional and international levels, can play a positive role in combating religious hatred, incitement and violence;

8. *Also calls upon* all States:

(a) To take effective measures to ensure that public functionaries, in the conduct of their public duties, do not discriminate against an individual on the basis of religion or belief;

(b) To foster religious freedom and pluralism by promoting the ability of members of all religious communities to manifest their religion and to contribute openly and on an equal footing to society;

(c) To encourage the representation and meaningful participation of individuals, irrespective of their religion or belief, in all sectors of society;

(d) To make a strong effort to counter religious profiling, which is understood to be the invidious use of religion as a criterion in conducting questioning, searches and other law enforcement investigative procedures;

9. *Further calls upon* all States to adopt measures and policies to promote full respect for and protection of places of worship and religious sites, cemeteries

and shrines, and to take protective measures in cases where they are vulnerable to vandalism or destruction;

10. *Calls for* strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs;

11. *Encourages* all States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and in this respect requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include those updates in her reports to the Human Rights Council;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report that includes information provided by the High Commissioner on steps taken by States to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief, as set forth in the present resolution.

Draft resolution XIV

Freedom of religion or belief

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [36/55](#) of 25 November 1981, by which it proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

Recalling also article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹ article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights² and other relevant human rights provisions,

Recalling further its previous resolutions on freedom of religion or belief and on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, including resolution [67/179](#) of 20 December 2012, and Human Rights Council resolution [22/20](#) of 22 March 2013,³

Recognizing the important work carried out by the Human Rights Committee in providing guidance with respect to the scope of freedom of religion or belief,

Considering that religion or belief, for those who profess either, is one of the fundamental elements in their conception of life and that freedom of religion or belief, as a universal human right, should be fully respected and guaranteed,

Deeply concerned at continuing acts of intolerance and violence based on religion or belief against individuals and members of religious communities and religious minorities around the world and at the limited progress that has been made in the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief, and believing that further intensified efforts are therefore required to promote and protect the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and to eliminate all forms of hatred, intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as also noted at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, as well as at the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Concerned that official authorities sometimes tolerate or encourage acts of violence, or credible threats of violence, against persons belonging to religious communities and religious minorities,

Concerned also at the increasing number of laws and regulations that limit the freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief and at the implementation of existing laws in a discriminatory manner,

Convinced of the need to address the rise in various parts of the world of religious extremism that affects the rights of individuals, the situations of violence

¹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² Resolution 217 A (III).

³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. IV.A.

and discrimination that affect many women and other individuals on the basis or in the name of religion or belief or in accordance with cultural and traditional practices and the misuse of religion or belief for ends inconsistent with the principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and in other relevant instruments of the United Nations,

Seriously concerned about all attacks on religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments,

Emphasizing that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, the media and civil society as a whole have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and in the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief,

Underlining the importance of education, including human rights education, in the promotion of tolerance, which involves the acceptance by the public of, and its respect for, diversity, including with regard to religious expression, and underlining also the fact that education, in particular at school, should contribute in a meaningful way to promoting tolerance and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief,

1. *Stresses* that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have, or not to have, or to adopt a religion or belief of one's own choice, and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, including the right to change one's religion or belief;

2. *Also stresses* that the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief applies equally to all persons, regardless of their religion or belief and without any discrimination as to their equal protection by the law;

3. *Strongly condemns* violations of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief as well as all forms of intolerance, discrimination and violence based on religion or belief;

4. *Recognizes with deep concern* the overall rise in instances of discrimination, intolerance and violence, regardless of the actors, directed against members of many religious and other communities in various parts of the world, including cases motivated by Islamophobia, anti-Semitism and Christianophobia and prejudices against persons of other religions or beliefs;

5. *Reaffirms* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion or belief, as this may have adverse consequences on the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief of all members of the religious communities concerned;

6. *Condemns* violence and acts of terrorism, which are increasing in number, targeting individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities across the world;

7. *Recalls* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against persons belonging to

religious minorities, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

8. *Emphasizes* that freedom of religion or belief and freedom of expression are interdependent, interrelated and mutually reinforcing, and stresses the role that these rights can play in the fight against all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief;

9. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of hatred on the basis of religion or belief that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audiovisual or electronic media or any other means;

10. *Expresses concern* at the persistence of institutionalized social intolerance and discrimination practised against many on the grounds of religion or belief, and emphasizes that legal procedures pertaining to religious or belief-based groups and places of worship are not a prerequisite for the exercise of the right to manifest one's religion or belief and that such procedures, when legally required at the national or local level, should be non-discriminatory in order to contribute to the effective protection of the right of all persons to practise their religion or belief, either individually or in community with others and in public or private;

11. *Recognizes with concern* the situation of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons deprived of their liberty, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons, children, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and migrants, as regards their ability to freely exercise their right to freedom of religion or belief;

12. *Emphasizes* that, as underlined by the Human Rights Committee, restrictions on the freedom to manifest one's religion or belief are permitted only if limitations are prescribed by law, are necessary to protect public safety, order, health or morals or the fundamental rights and freedoms of others, are non-discriminatory and are applied in a manner that does not vitiate the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

13. *Expresses deep concern* at emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief as well as the continued existence of instances of intolerance, discrimination and violence on the basis of religion or belief, including:

(a) The increasing number of acts of violence and intolerance directed against individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities and other communities in various parts of the world;

(b) The rise of religious extremism in various parts of the world that affects the rights of individuals, including persons belonging to religious minorities;

(c) Incidents of hatred, discrimination, intolerance and violence on the basis of religion or belief, which may be associated with or manifested by the derogatory stereotyping, negative profiling and stigmatization of persons based on their religion or belief;

(d) Attacks on or destruction of religious places, sites and shrines in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, as they have more than material significance for the dignity and lives of members of communities holding spiritual or religious beliefs;

(e) Instances, both in law and practice, that constitute violations of the human right to freedom of religion or belief, including of the individual right to publicly express one's spiritual and religious beliefs, taking into account the relevant articles of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹ as well as other international instruments;

(f) Constitutional and legislative systems that fail to provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction;

14. *Urges* States to step up their efforts to protect and promote freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to this end:

(a) To ensure that their constitutional and legislative systems provide adequate and effective guarantees of freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief to all without distinction, inter alia, by providing access to justice and effective remedies in cases where the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief or the right to freely choose and practise one's religion is violated;

(b) To implement all accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the promotion and protection of freedom of religion or belief;

(c) To ensure that no one within their jurisdiction is deprived of the right to life, liberty and security of person because of religion or belief and that no one is subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, or arbitrary arrest or detention on that account and to bring to justice all perpetrators of violations of these rights;

(d) To end violations of the human rights of women and to devote particular attention to appropriate measures modifying or abolishing existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that discriminate against women, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, and to foster practical ways to ensure equality between men and women;

(e) To ensure that existing legislation is not implemented in a discriminatory manner or does not result in discrimination based on religion or belief, that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief when accessing, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits and that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination on the basis of religion or belief;

(f) To review, whenever relevant, existing registration practices in order to ensure that such practices do not limit the right of all persons to manifest their religion or belief, either alone or in community with others and in public or private;

(g) To ensure that no official documents are withheld from the individual on the grounds of religion or belief and that everyone has the right to refrain from disclosing information concerning their religious affiliation in such documents against their will;

(h) To ensure, in particular, the right of all persons to worship, assemble or teach in connection with a religion or belief and their right to establish and maintain places for these purposes, and the right of all persons to seek, receive and impart information and ideas in these areas;

(i) To ensure that, in accordance with appropriate national legislation and in conformity with international human rights law, the freedom of all persons and members of groups to establish and maintain religious, charitable or humanitarian institutions is fully respected and protected;

(j) To ensure that all public officials and civil servants, including members of law enforcement bodies, and personnel of detention facilities, the military and educators, in the course of fulfilling their official duties, respect freedom of religion or belief and do not discriminate for reasons based on religion or belief, and that they receive all necessary and appropriate awareness-raising, education or training on respect for freedom of religion or belief;

(k) To take all necessary and appropriate action, in conformity with international standards of human rights, to combat hatred, discrimination, intolerance and acts of violence, intimidation and coercion motivated by intolerance based on religion or belief, as well as incitement to hostility and violence, with particular regard to members of religious minorities in all parts of the world;

(l) To promote, through education and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in the society at large, a wider knowledge of the diversity of religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

(m) To prevent any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on religion or belief that impairs the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis and to detect signs of intolerance that may lead to discrimination based on religion or belief;

15. *Welcomes and encourages* initiatives by the media to promote tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including freedom of religion or belief;

16. *Stresses* the importance of a continued and strengthened dialogue in all its forms, including among and within religions or beliefs, and with broader participation, including of women, to promote greater tolerance, respect and mutual understanding, and welcomes different initiatives in this regard, including the Alliance of Civilizations initiative and the programmes led by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

17. *Welcomes and encourages* the continuing efforts of all actors in society, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,⁴ and further encourages their work in promoting freedom of religion or belief, in highlighting cases of religious intolerance, discrimination and persecution and in promoting religious tolerance;

18. *Recommends* that States, the United Nations and other actors, including non-governmental organizations and bodies and groups based on religion or belief, in their efforts to promote freedom of religion or belief, ensure the widest possible dissemination of the text of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of

⁴ Resolution 36/55.

Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, in as many different languages as possible, and promote its implementation;

19. *Welcomes* the work and the interim report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on freedom of religion or belief;⁵

20. *Urges* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur, to respond favourably to his requests to visit their countries and to provide all information and follow-up necessary for the effective fulfilment of his mandate;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Rapporteur receives the resources necessary to fully discharge his mandate;

22. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session;

23. *Decides* to consider the question of the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

⁵ See A/68/290.

Draft resolution XV

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, the most recent of which was resolution 66/169 of 19 December 2011, and those of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning national institutions and their role in the promotion and protection of human rights, the most recent of which are Human Rights Council resolutions 20/14 of 5 July 2012 and 23/17 of 13 June 2013,

Welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in the creation and strengthening of independent, pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (“the Paris Principles”),¹ and welcoming the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of these principles,

Reaffirming the important role that such national institutions play and will continue to play in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, in strengthening participation and the rule of law and in developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and freedoms,

Recalling its resolution 67/163 of 20 December 2012 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recognizing the important role of the United Nations, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in assisting the development of independent and effective national human rights institutions, guided by the Paris Principles, and recognizing also in this regard the potential for strengthened and complementary cooperation among the United Nations, the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and those national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,² which reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities and their role in preventing and remedying human rights violations, in disseminating information on human rights and in education in human rights,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, and that all States, regardless

¹ Resolution 48/134, annex.

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling the programme of action adopted by national institutions, at their meeting held in Vienna in June 1993 during the World Conference on Human Rights,³ for the promotion and protection of human rights, in which it was recommended that United Nations activities and programmes should be reinforced to meet the requests for assistance from States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights⁴ and on the process currently utilized by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to accredit national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles,⁵

Welcoming the strengthening in all regions of regional cooperation among national human rights institutions, and noting with appreciation the continuing work of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General⁶ and the conclusions contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the development of effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Paris Principles;¹

3. *Recognizes* the role of independent national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in working together with Governments to ensure full respect for human rights at the national level, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to the recommendations resulting from the international human rights mechanisms;

4. *Welcomes* the increasingly important role of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in supporting cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion and protection of human rights;

5. *Underlines* the value of national human rights institutions, established and operating in accordance with the Paris Principles, in the continued monitoring of existing legislation and consistently informing the State about its impact on the activities of human rights defenders, including by making relevant and concrete recommendations;

6. *Recognizes* the role that national human rights institutions can play in preventing and addressing cases of reprisals, as part of supporting the cooperation between their Governments and the United Nations in the promotion of human

³ See A/CONF.157/NI/6.

⁴ A/HRC/23/27.

⁵ A/HRC/16/77.

⁶ A/68/208.

rights, including by contributing to follow-up actions, as appropriate, to recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms;

7. *Recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,² it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions that is best suited to its particular needs at the national level in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights standards;

8. *Encourages* Member States to establish effective, independent and pluralistic national institutions or, where they already exist, to strengthen them for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as outlined in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

9. *Welcomes* the growing number of States establishing or considering the establishment of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and welcomes in particular the growing number of States that have accepted recommendations to establish national institutions compliant with the Paris Principles made through the universal periodic review and, where relevant, by treaty bodies and special procedures;

10. *Encourages* national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights established by Member States to continue to play an active role in preventing and combating all violations of human rights as enumerated in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and relevant international instruments;

11. *Recognizes* that national human rights institutions and their respective members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of the activities undertaken in accordance with their respective mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting about serious or systematic violations in their countries;

12. *Recognizes* the role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Human Rights Council, including its universal periodic review mechanism, in both preparation and follow-up, and the special procedures, as well as in the human rights treaty bodies, in accordance with Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007⁷ and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005;⁸

13. *Welcomes* the strengthening of opportunities to contribute to the work of the Human Rights Council for national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, as stipulated in the Council review outcome document⁹ adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011, and encourages national human rights institutions to make use of these participatory opportunities;

14. *Welcomes* the contribution of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to the work of the United Nations, inter alia, of

⁷ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/2005/23 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. II, sect. A.

⁹ Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, annex.

the Commission on the Status of Women, the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing and the ongoing intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system;

15. *Encourages* national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to continue to participate in and to contribute to deliberations in all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates, including the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to focus in his next report to the General Assembly on the current participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles in the work of the Assembly and related processes, with a view to exploring the feasibility of enabling national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles to participate independently in relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes in accordance with their respective mandates and based on practices and arrangements agreed upon in Assembly resolution [60/251](#) of 15 March 2006, Human Rights Council resolutions [5/1](#) and [5/2](#) of 18 June 2007 and [16/21](#) of 25 March 2011 and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005, while ensuring their most effective contribution;

17. *Stresses* the importance of the financial and administrative independence and stability of national human rights institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and notes with satisfaction the efforts of those States that have provided their national institutions with more autonomy and independence, including by giving them an investigative role or enhancing such a role, and encourages other Governments to consider taking similar steps;

18. *Urges* the Secretary-General to continue to give high priority to requests from Member States for assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions;

19. *Underlines* the importance of the autonomy and independence of Ombudsman institutions, encourages increased cooperation between national human rights institutions and regional and international associations of Ombudsmen, and also encourages Ombudsman institutions to actively draw on the standards enumerated in international instruments and the Paris Principles to strengthen their independence and increase their capacity to act as national human rights protection mechanisms;

20. *Commends* the high priority given by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to work on national human rights institutions, encourages the High Commissioner, in view of the expanded activities relating to national institutions, to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made and budgetary resources provided to continue and further extend activities in support of national institutions, and invites Governments to contribute additional voluntary funds to that end;

21. *Encourages* all United Nations human rights mechanisms as well as agencies, funds and programmes to work within their respective mandates with Member States and national institutions in the promotion and protection of human

rights with respect to, inter alia, projects in the area of good governance and the rule of law, and in this regard welcomes the efforts made by the High Commissioner to develop partnerships in support of national institutions, including the tripartite partnership among the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Coordinating Committee;

22. *Welcomes* the important role played by the International Coordinating Committee, in close cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, in assisting Governments, when requested, in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles, in assessing the conformity of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles and in providing technical assistance to strengthen national human rights institutions, upon request, with a view to enhancing their compliance with the Paris Principles, and calls upon Member States and other stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, to follow up on the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee, with a view to enabling national human rights institutions to fully comply with the Paris Principles in both law and practice;

23. *Encourages* national institutions, including Ombudsman and mediator institutions, to seek accreditation status through the International Coordinating Committee;

24. *Encourages* all Member States to take appropriate steps to promote the exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions and to support the work of the International Coordinating Committee and its regional coordinating networks in this regard, including through support for the relevant technical assistance programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the assistance necessary for holding international and regional meetings of national institutions, including meetings of the International Coordinating Committee, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner;

26. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XVI

Effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities annexed to that resolution, and bearing in mind article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights¹ as well as other relevant existing international standards and national legislation,

Recalling also its subsequent resolutions on the effective promotion of the Declaration, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 6/15 of 28 September 2007² and 19/23 of 23 March 2012,³ by which the Council established and renewed the mandate of the Forum on Minority Issues, 16/6 of 24 March 2011 on the mandate of the Independent Expert on minority issues,⁴ 18/3 of 29 September 2011 on the panel to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration⁵ and 22/4 of 21 March 2013 on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,⁶

Affirming that the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and dialogue between these minorities and the rest of society, as well as the constructive and inclusive development of practices and institutional arrangements to accommodate diversity within societies, contribute to political and social stability and the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflicts involving the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Expressing concern at the frequency and severity of disputes and conflicts involving persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in many countries and their often tragic consequences, and that they often suffer disproportionately from the effects of conflict resulting in the violation of their human rights and are particularly vulnerable to displacement through, inter alia, population transfers, refugee flows and forced relocation,

Emphasizing the important role that national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as well as in early warning and awareness-raising measures to address problems regarding minority situations,

Emphasizing also the need for reinforced efforts to meet the goal of the full realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by addressing economic and social conditions and marginalization, as well as to end any type of discrimination against them,

¹ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/63/53)*, chap. I, sect. A.

³ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/67/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1)*, chap. II.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

Emphasizing further the importance of recognizing and addressing multiple, aggravated and intersecting forms of discrimination against persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the compounded negative impact upon the enjoyment of their rights,

Emphasizing the fundamental importance of human rights education, training and learning as well as of dialogue, including intercultural and interfaith dialogue, and interaction among all relevant stakeholders and members of society on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as an integral part of the development of society as a whole, including the sharing of best practices such as for the promotion of mutual understanding of minority issues, managing diversity by recognizing plural identities and promoting inclusive and stable societies as well as social cohesion therein,

Acknowledging that the United Nations has an important role to play regarding the protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities by, inter alia, taking due account of, and giving effect to, the Declaration, and recalling the paragraphs in its resolution [67/292](#) of 24 July 2013 on multilingualism relating to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, recognizing that multilingualism is a means of preserving the diversity of languages and cultures globally,

Affirming that the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, in 2012, offered an important opportunity to reflect on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, on achievements, best practices and challenges with regard to implementation of the Declaration, on the diverse ways in which it has been used and implemented in practice at the national, regional and international levels, and on the impact that it has had on national legislation, institutional mechanisms and their activities and programmes to advance the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities,

Acknowledging the various activities undertaken by States, regional intergovernmental bodies, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations system to commemorate the anniversary, in particular the regional expert workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

Welcoming the publication *Promoting and Protecting Minority Rights: A Guide for Advocates* of the Office of the High Commissioner, providing information on main actors working on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in the United Nations and in key regional organizations and constituting a valuable tool for advocates working on this issue worldwide,

Recognizing, in this context, the important role played by the Independent Expert in promoting the implementation of the Declaration,

1. *Reaffirms* the obligation of States to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities may exercise fully and effectively all human rights and fundamental freedoms without any discrimination and in full equality before the law, as proclaimed in the Declaration on the Rights of

Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,⁷ and draws attention to the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,⁸ including the provisions on forms of multiple discrimination;

2. *Urges* States and the international community to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, including through the encouragement of conditions for the promotion of their identity, the provision of adequate education and the facilitation of their participation in all aspects of the political, economic, social, religious and cultural life of society and in the economic progress and development of their country, without discrimination, and to apply a gender perspective while doing so;

3. *Urges* States to take all appropriate measures, inter alia, constitutional, legislative, administrative and other measures, for the promotion and implementation of the Declaration, and appeals to States to cooperate bilaterally and multilaterally, in particular on the exchange of best practices and lessons learned, in accordance with the Declaration, in order to promote and protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

4. *Also urges* States to undertake initiatives to ensure that persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities are aware of and able to exercise their rights as set out in the Declaration and in other international human rights obligations and commitments;

5. *Recommends* that States and other relevant actors ensure to the fullest extent possible that the Declaration is translated into all minority languages and disseminated widely;

6. *Calls upon* States, while bearing in mind the theme of the fifth session of the Forum on Minority Issues, and with a view to enhancing the implementation of the Declaration and to ensuring the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, to take appropriate measures by, inter alia:

(a) Reviewing any legislation, policy or practice that has a discriminatory or disproportionately negative effect on persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with a view to considering its amendment;

(b) Developing awareness-raising and training initiatives, including for public officials, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials, on the rights contained in the Declaration;

(c) Dedicating departments, sections or focal points within existing institutions, or considering the establishment of specialized national institutions or agencies to address the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

7. *Recommends* that States ensure that all measures taken with a view to implementing the Declaration are, to the fullest extent possible, developed,

⁷ Resolution 47/135, annex.

⁸ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

designed, implemented and reviewed with the full, effective and equal participation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

8. *Calls upon* States to give special attention to the situation and specific needs of women, children and persons with disabilities belonging to minorities while promoting and protecting the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

9. *Encourages* States, in their follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to include aspects relating to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities in their national plans of action and, in this context, to take forms of multiple discrimination fully into account;

10. *Calls upon* States to integrate the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as effective non-discrimination and equality for all, into strategies for the prevention and resolution of conflicts involving these minorities, while ensuring their full and effective participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of such strategies;

11. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to make available, at the request of Governments concerned, qualified expertise on minority issues, including in the context of the prevention and resolution of disputes, to assist in resolving existing or potential situations involving minorities;

12. *Welcomes* the reports of the Independent Expert on minority issues and their special focus on institutional attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities within governmental organs, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies as a means of promoting their rights⁹ and on rights-based approaches to the protection and promotion of the rights of persons belonging to religious minorities;¹⁰

13. *Commends* the Independent Expert for the work that has been done and the important role played in raising the level of awareness of and in giving added visibility to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and for her guiding role in the preparation and work of the Forum, which contributes to efforts to improve cooperation and coordination among all United Nations mechanisms relating to the rights of persons belonging to minorities;

14. *Invites* the Independent Expert to report annually to the General Assembly;

15. *Calls upon* all States to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated to her, to provide her with all the necessary information requested and to seriously consider responding promptly and favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries in order to enable her to fulfil her duties effectively;

16. *Encourages* the specialized agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to develop regular

⁹ A/67/293.

¹⁰ A/68/268.

dialogue and cooperation with the mandate holder as well as to continue to contribute to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

17. *Expresses its appreciation* for the successful completion, in November 2012, of the fifth session of the Forum, which addressed the implementation of the Declaration and which, through the widespread participation of stakeholders, provided an important platform for promoting dialogue on these topics and, as part of its outcome, identified in its recommendations achievements, best practices and challenges for the further implementation of the Declaration, and encourages States to take into consideration relevant recommendations of the Forum;

18. *Invites* States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions as well as academics and experts on minority issues to continue to participate actively in the sessions of the Forum;

19. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Independent Expert and relevant United Nations entities, as well as by Member States, to mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration;¹¹

20. *Welcomes* the panel discussion held by the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration, and takes note with appreciation of other multilateral, regional and subregional initiatives aimed at celebrating that anniversary;

21. *Welcomes* the inter-agency cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on minority issues, led by the Office of the High Commissioner, and urges them to further increase their cooperation by, inter alia, developing policies on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, drawing also on relevant outcomes of the Forum;

22. *Takes note in particular* in this regard of the establishment of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities, coordinated by the Office of the High Commissioner and aimed at enhancing dialogue and cooperation between relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and invites the network to cooperate with the Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and to consult and engage with persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and civil society actors;

23. *Takes note with appreciation* of the guidance note of the Secretary-General on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, providing guidance for the United Nations system on how to address racial discrimination and protection of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and aimed at, inter alia, integrating their rights into the work of the United Nations system at the global, regional and country levels, including through coordination mechanisms;

¹¹ A/68/304.

24. *Requests* the High Commissioner to continue her efforts to improve coordination and cooperation among United Nations agencies, funds and programmes on activities related to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and to take the work of relevant regional organizations active in the field of human rights into account in her endeavours;

25. *Calls upon* the High Commissioner to continue to promote, within her mandate, the implementation of the Declaration, and to engage in a dialogue with Governments for that purpose and regularly update and disseminate widely the United Nations Guide for Minorities;

26. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue to seek voluntary contributions to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations and persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in particular those from developing countries, in minority-related activities organized by the United Nations, in particular the activities of its human rights bodies as well as the Forum, and in doing so to give particular attention to ensuring the participation of young people and women;

27. *Welcomes*, in this regard, the decision of the Human Rights Council to establish a special fund for the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in, inter alia, the Forum on Minority Issues, aiming to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders, with particular attention being paid to participants from least developed countries, and calls upon States to support the participation of civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the Forum on Minority Issues and, to that end, to make voluntary contributions to the special fund;

28. *Invites* the human rights treaty bodies, as well as special procedures of the Human Rights Council, to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to situations and rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and, in this regard, to take into consideration relevant recommendations of the Forum;

29. *Reaffirms* that the universal periodic review, as well as the United Nations human rights treaty bodies, constitute important mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in that regard calls upon States to effectively follow up on accepted universal periodic review recommendations related to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and further encourages States parties to give serious consideration to the follow-up to treaty body recommendations on the matter;

30. *Encourages* regional intergovernmental bodies, within their respective regions, to promote greater attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, inter alia, by actively raising awareness of and promoting the Declaration in their work, by encouraging its implementation at the national level and by considering the creation of thematic and/or special mechanisms on this issue;

31. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to pay due attention to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

by, inter alia, considering establishing, for instance, a department, section or focal point within their secretariats to address those rights;

32. *Encourages* civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to promote awareness of the Declaration and to review the extent to which it integrates the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the Declaration into its work, as well as to inform persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities about their rights;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including information on activities undertaken by Member States, the Office of the High Commissioner, the Independent Expert, relevant United Nations entities and other relevant stakeholders to enhance the implementation of the Declaration and to ensure the realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;

34. *Decides* to continue consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XVII

United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

The General Assembly,

Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993,² which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977, 51/102 of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling further its resolutions 60/153 of 16 December 2005 and 67/162 of 20 December 2012, on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993³ and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting that the developments in the Middle East and North Africa have generated growing demand for the services of the Centre, and recognizing that the report of the Secretary-General⁴ indicates that the Centre will be unable to effectively meet these demands and fully discharge its mandate without the allocation of appropriate funding and adequate resources,

Mindful of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for more appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region;⁴

2. *Notes with appreciation* the successful assistance that the Centre has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes, training activities and regional consultations on the topics of United Nations human rights mechanisms, human trafficking, the media and human rights education;

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 3* and corrigenda (E/1993/23 and Corr.2, 4 and 5), chap. II, sect. A.

⁴ A/68/287.

3. *Underlines* the Centre's role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in the Arabic language, which require additional resources and the reinforcement of its activities;

4. *Notes* that the current level of human and financial resources are limiting the Centre's capacity to respond in a timely and sustainable manner to these increasing requests to provide continuous follow-up support to the countries of the region and to appropriately respond to their needs;

5. *Encourages* the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work and to avoid duplication;

6. *Reaffirms* the request contained in paragraph 5 of its resolution 67/162, and endorses the proposal of the Secretary-General to strengthen the Centre as proposed in the report of the Secretary-General, with the costs to be borne by the regular budget and extrabudgetary resources as recommended by the Secretary-General, in order to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of the Centre;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report, in accordance with the existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

Draft resolution XVIII

Follow-up to the International Year of Human Rights Learning

The General Assembly,

Recalling that the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations include promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and that human rights learning can contribute to the understanding of their connectedness to people's daily lives,

Recalling its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which it decided that the Human Rights Council should, inter alia, promote human rights education and learning as well as advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome, in which Heads of State and Government expressed their support for the promotion of human rights education and learning at all levels, including through the implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, as appropriate, and encouraged all States to develop initiatives in this regard,¹

Recalling further its resolutions 62/171 of 18 December 2007, 63/173 of 18 December 2008 and 64/82 of 10 December 2009 on the International Year of Human Rights Learning and 66/173 of 19 December 2011 on the follow-up thereto,

Welcoming Human Rights Council resolution 24/15 of 24 September 2013, in which the Council decided on the plan of action for the third phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, and stressing the complementarity of human rights learning and human rights education,

Acknowledging that civil society, academia, the private sector, the media and, where appropriate, parliamentarians can play an important role at the national, regional and international levels in the development and facilitation of ways and means to promote and implement learning about human rights as a way of life at the community level,

Convinced that integrating human rights learning into all relevant development policies and programmes contributes to enabling people to participate as equals in the decisions that determine their lives,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,²

1. *Reaffirms its conviction* that every woman, man, youth and child can realize his or her full human potential by, inter alia, learning about the comprehensive framework of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the ability to act on that knowledge in order to ensure the effective realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

2. *Encourages* Member States to expand on efforts made beyond the International Year of Human Rights Learning and to consider devoting the financial and human resources necessary to further design and implement international,

¹ See resolution 60/1, para. 131.

² A/68/207.

regional, national and local long-term human rights learning programmes of action aimed at broad-based and sustained human rights learning at all levels, in coordination with civil society, the media, the private sector, academia, parliamentarians and regional organizations, including the appropriate specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and, where possible, to designate human rights cities;

3. *Calls upon* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Human Rights Council to support, cooperate and collaborate closely with civil society, the private sector, academia, regional organizations, the media and other relevant stakeholders, as well as with organizations, programmes and funds of the United Nations system, and relevant networks and bodies such as the Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Global Compact and the United Nations Office for Partnerships in efforts to develop, in particular, the design of strategies and international, regional, national and local programmes of action aimed at broad-based and sustained human rights learning at all levels;

4. *Welcomes* the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training,³ and stresses the complementarity of human rights learning and the Declaration;

5. *Encourages* civil society organizations worldwide, in particular those working at the community level, to integrate human rights learning into dialogue and consciousness-raising programmes with groups working on education, development, poverty eradication, participation, children, indigenous peoples, gender equality, persons with disabilities, elder persons and migrants, as well as on other relevant political, civil, economic, social and cultural issues of concern;

6. *Encourages* relevant actors in civil society, including sociologists, anthropologists, members of academia and of the media and community leaders, to join in further developing the concept of human rights learning as a way to promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;

7. *Invites* relevant treaty bodies to take human rights learning into account in their interaction with States parties;

8. *Invites* the United Nations system, as well as Member States, to give due consideration to human rights education and learning in the emerging post-2015 United Nations development agenda;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

³ Resolution 66/137.

Draft resolution XIX Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [55/105](#) of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions [55/34 B](#) of 20 November 2000 and [55/233](#) of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution [55/234](#) of 23 December 2000, its resolution [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001 and its resolutions [58/176](#) of 22 December 2003, [59/183](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/151](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/158](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/221](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/177](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/165](#) of 18 December 2009 and [66/162](#) of 19 December 2011 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

Recalling further that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹

Recalling the report of the High Commissioner,²

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,³

Taking note also of the holding of the thirty-third, thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in Bangui from 5 to 9 December 2011, in Bujumbura from 14 to 18 May 2012, in Brazzaville from 3 to 6 December 2012 and in Kigali from 20 to 23 August 2013,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,⁴ in particular the decision confirmed therein to double the regular budget of the Office of the High Commissioner over the subsequent five years,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;
2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided for the establishment of the Centre by the host country;
3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States and Rwanda;
4. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Centre to implement its strategic thematic priorities for the period 2012-2013;
5. *Welcomes* the appointment of the new Director of the Centre in June 2013;

¹ See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).*

³ A/68/390.

⁴ Resolution 60/1.

6. *Encourages* the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the elaboration and implementation of its strategic thematic priorities for the period 2014-2017;

7. *Also encourages* the Centre to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams of the subregion;

8. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

9. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly⁵ in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue to provide additional funds and human resources within the existing resources of the Office of the High Commissioner to enable the Centre to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and the rule of law in the Central African subregion;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁵ Resolutions 61/158, 62/221, 63/177 and 64/165.

Draft resolution XX

Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, including resolution 67/175 of 20 December 2012, and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/6 of 29 September 2011¹ and 21/9 of 27 September 2012,²

Reaffirming the commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for, and observance and protection of, all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, other instruments relating to human rights and international law,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law as set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter and, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Recalling the Preamble to the Charter, in particular the determination to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,³

Reaffirming also the determination expressed in the Preamble to the Charter to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, to practise tolerance and good-neighbourliness, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and Corr.1), chap. II.

² *Ibid.*, *Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A* (A/67/52/Add.1), chap. III.

³ Resolution 217 A (III).

determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law, pluralism, development, better standards of living and solidarity,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Considering that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

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

Emphasizing that democracy is not only a political concept, but that it also has economic and social dimensions,

Recognizing that democracy, respect for all human rights, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society, and effective participation by civil society are an essential part of the necessary foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development,

Noting with concern that racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance may be aggravated by, inter alia, inequitable distribution of wealth, marginalization and social exclusion,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation at all levels,

Underlining the fact that it is imperative for the international community to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's people, and that only through broad and sustained efforts, based on our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable,

Deeply concerned that the current global economic, financial, energy and food crises, resulting from a combination of several major factors, including macroeconomic and other factors, such as environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of financial resources and the technology necessary to confront their negative impact in developing countries, particularly in the least developed countries and small island developing States, represent a global scenario that is threatening the adequate enjoyment of all human rights and widening the gap between developed and developing countries,

Stressing that efforts to make globalization fully inclusive and equitable must include policies and measures, at the global level, that correspond to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and are formulated and implemented with their effective participation,

Stressing also the need for adequate financing of and technology transfer to developing countries, in particular the landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, including to support their efforts to adapt to climate change,

Having listened to the peoples of the world, and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all, to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate Holders of the Council, both of 18 June 2007,⁴ and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Resolved to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone is entitled to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to fulfil their commitment expressed in Durban, South Africa, during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to maximize the benefits of globalization through, inter alia, the strengthening and enhancement of international cooperation to increase equality of opportunities for trade, economic growth and sustainable development, global communications through the use of new technologies and increased intercultural exchange through the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity,⁵ and reiterates that only through broad and sustained efforts to create a shared future based upon our common humanity and all its diversity can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable;

4. *Declares* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms and is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and reaffirms the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels;

5. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/62/53), chap. IV.A.

⁵ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

- (a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;
- (b) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;
- (c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development;
- (d) The right of all peoples to peace;
- (e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, solidarity and cooperation among all States;
- (f) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;
- (g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principle of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;
- (h) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic and global decision-making;
- (i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;
- (j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communications order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;
- (k) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all, since this enhances cultural pluralism, contributes to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural backgrounds, advances the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights across the world and fosters stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;
- (l) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to enhanced international cooperation that responds effectively to the needs for assistance of national efforts to adapt to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promotes the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;
- (m) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in economic, commercial and financial international relations;
- (n) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind in connection to the public right of access to culture;
- (o) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social development, as well as threats to international peace and security, that should be exercised multilaterally;

6. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

7. *Also stresses* 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 reaffirms 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 for all;

8. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, social justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

9. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of the developing countries;

10. *Also reaffirms* the need to continue working urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

11. *Further reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove the current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

12. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

13. *Takes note* of the interim report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;⁶

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Independent Expert;

⁶ A/67/277 and Corr.1.

15. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Independent Expert in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to consider responding favourably to the requests of the Independent Expert to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

16. *Requests* the Human Rights Council, the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special mechanisms extended by the Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

17. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations, and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

19. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work;

20. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XXI
Strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind that among the purposes of the United Nations are those of developing friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples and taking other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, as well as achieving international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Desirous of achieving further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Considering that such international cooperation should be based on the principles embodied in international law, especially the Charter of the United Nations, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenants on Human Rights² and other relevant instruments,

Deeply convinced that United Nations action in the field of human rights should be based not only on a profound understanding of the broad range of problems existing in all societies but also on full respect for the political, economic and social realities of each of them, in strict compliance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and for the basic purpose of promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through international cooperation,

Recalling its previous resolutions in this regard,

Reaffirming the importance of ensuring the universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, as affirmed in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,³ and the elimination of double standards,

Reaffirming also the importance of the objectivity, independence, impartiality and discretion of the special rapporteurs and representatives on thematic issues and on countries, as well as of the members of the working groups, in carrying out their mandates,

Underlining the obligation that Governments have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights,

1. *Reiterates* that, by virtue of the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, all peoples

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

have the right freely to determine, without external interference, their political status and to pursue their economic, social and cultural development, and that every State has the duty to respect that right within the provisions of the Charter, including respect for territorial integrity;

2. *Reaffirms* that it is a purpose of the United Nations and the task of all Member States, in cooperation with the Organization, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and to remain vigilant with regard to violations of human rights wherever they occur;

3. *Calls upon* all Member States to base their activities for the promotion and protection of human rights, including the development of further international cooperation in this field, on the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights² and other relevant international instruments, and to refrain from activities that are inconsistent with that international framework;

4. *Considers* that international cooperation in this field should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing mass and flagrant violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and to the strengthening of international peace and security;

5. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, as a legitimate concern of the world community, should be guided by the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity and should not be used for political ends;

6. *Requests* all human rights bodies within the United Nations system, as well as the special rapporteurs and representatives, independent experts and working groups, to take duly into account the contents of the present resolution in carrying out their mandates;

7. *Expresses its conviction* that an unbiased and fair approach to human rights issues contributes to the promotion of international cooperation as well as to the effective promotion, protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

8. *Stresses* the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries, and, in this context, highlights the role of media in raising public awareness on issues of public interest;

9. *Invites* Member States to consider adopting, as appropriate, within the framework of their respective legal systems and in accordance with their obligations under international law, especially the Charter, and international human rights instruments, the measures that they may deem appropriate to achieve further progress in international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Requests* the Human Rights Council to continue taking duly into account the present resolution and to consider further proposals for the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of the principles of non-selectivity,

impartiality and objectivity, including in the context of the universal periodic review;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to invite Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to present further practical proposals and ideas that would contribute to the strengthening of United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity, and to submit a comprehensive report on the question to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

12. *Decides* to consider the matter at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XXII

The right to food

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Charter of the United Nations and its importance for the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Reaffirming also all previous resolutions and decisions on the right to food adopted within the framework of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition² and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³ in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015,

Recalling also the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁴ in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,⁵

Reaffirming the concrete recommendations contained in the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,⁶

Reaffirming also the Five Rome Principles for Sustainable Global Food Security contained in the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted in Rome on 16 November 2009,⁷

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming that a peaceful, stable and enabling political, social and economic environment, at both the national and the international levels, is the essential foundation that will enable States to give adequate priority to food and nutrition security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Declaration of the World Food Summit, that food should not be used as an instrument of political or economic pressure, and reaffirming in this regard the

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² *Report of the World Food Conference, Rome, 5-16 November 1974* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.75.II.A.3), chap. I.

³ Resolution 55/2.

⁴ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁵ A/57/499, annex.

⁶ E/CN.4/2005/131, annex.

⁷ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

importance of international cooperation and solidarity, as well as the necessity of refraining from unilateral measures that are not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that endanger food and nutrition security,

Convinced that each State must adopt a strategy consistent with its resources and capacities to achieve its individual goals in implementing the recommendations contained in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the World Food Summit Plan of Action and, at the same time, cooperate regionally and internationally in order to organize collective solutions to global issues of food and nutrition security in a world of increasingly interlinked institutions, societies and economies where coordinated efforts and shared responsibilities are essential,

Recognizing that the complex character of the global food crisis, in which the right to adequate food is threatened to be violated on a substantial scale, is a combination of several major factors, such as the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the impacts of global climate change, as well as natural disasters and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, least developed countries and small island developing States,

Resolved to act to ensure that the human rights perspective is taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the global food crisis,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pest infestations, as well as the negative impact of climate change, and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in substantial loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

Emphasizing that a multisectoral approach that integrates nutrition across all sectors, including agriculture, health, water and sanitation, social protection and education, as well as a gender perspective, is critical to achieving global food and nutrition security and the realization of the right to food,

Recalling the endorsement of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security⁸ by the Committee on World Food Security at its 38th session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

Stressing the importance of reversing the continuing decline of official development assistance devoted to agriculture, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance,

Recognizing the importance of the protection and preservation of agrobiodiversity in guaranteeing food security and the right to food for all,

Recognizing also the role of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations as the key United Nations agency for rural and agricultural development and its work in supporting the efforts of Member States to achieve the

⁸ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

full realization of the right to food, including through its provision of technical assistance to developing countries in support of the implementation of national priority frameworks,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

Acknowledging the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis established by the Secretary-General, and supporting the Secretary-General in his continuing efforts in this regard, including continued engagement with Member States and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food,

1. *Reaffirms* that hunger constitutes an outrage and a violation of human dignity and therefore requires the adoption of urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination;

2. *Also reaffirms* the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

3. *Considers it intolerable* that, as estimated by the United Nations Children’s Fund, more than one third of the children who die every year before the age of 5 die from hunger-related illness, that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, about 842 million people worldwide suffer from chronic hunger and that an additional 1 billion people are suffering from serious malnutrition, including as a result of the global food crisis, while, according to the latter organization, the planet could produce enough food to feed everyone around the world;

4. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects of the world food crisis continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of this crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially least developed countries;

5. *Expresses its deep concern* that, according to the report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations entitled *The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2013*, the number of hungry people in the world remains unacceptably high and the vast majority of hungry people live in developing countries;

6. *Expresses its concern* that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food and nutrition insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination, that in many countries, girls are twice as likely as boys to die from malnutrition and preventable childhood diseases and that it is estimated that almost twice as many women as men suffer from malnutrition;

7. *Encourages* all States to take action to address gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular where they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and ensuring that women have equal access to resources, including income, land and water and their ownership and agricultural inputs, as well as full and equal access to health care, education, science and

technology, to enable them to feed themselves and their families, and in this regard stresses the need to empower women and strengthen their role in decision-making;

8. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue mainstreaming a gender perspective in the fulfilment of his mandate, and encourages the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and all other United Nations bodies and mechanisms addressing the right to food and food insecurity to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

9. *Reaffirms* the need to ensure that programmes delivering safe and nutritious food are inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

10. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes which are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy, and children and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

11. *Encourages* all States to take steps with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the right to food, including steps to promote the conditions for everyone to be free from hunger and, as soon as possible, to enjoy fully the right to food, and to create and adopt national plans to combat hunger;

12. *Recognizes* the advances reached through South-South cooperation in developing countries and regions in connection with food security and the development of agricultural production for the full realization of the right to food;

13. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and public investment in rural development are essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investments, including private investments, in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts;

14. *Recognizes* the critical contribution made by the fisheries sector to the realization of the right to food and to food security, and the contribution of small-scale fishers to the local food security of coastal communities;

15. *Also recognizes* that 80 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas and 50 per cent are small-scale farm-holders, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food insecurity, given the increasing cost of inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools for promoting land and agrarian reform, rural credit and insurance, technical assistance and other associated measures to achieve food security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises, including through the facilitation of access of their products to national and international markets and empowerment of small producers, particularly women, in value chains, is a key element for food security and the provision of the right to food;

16. *Stresses* the importance of fighting hunger in rural areas, including through national efforts supported by international partnerships to stop desertification and land degradation and through investments and public policies that are specifically appropriate to the risk of drylands, and in this regard calls for

the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa;⁹

17. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁰ and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹¹ as a matter of priority;

18. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹² acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concerns over the obstacles and challenges they face in achieving the full enjoyment of the right to food, and calls upon States to take special actions to combat the root causes of the disproportionately high level of hunger and malnutrition among indigenous peoples and the continuous discrimination against them;

19. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts such as, inter alia, “food sovereignty” and their relation with food security and the right to food, bearing in mind the need to avoid any negative impact on the enjoyment of the right to food for all people at all times;

20. *Requests* all States and private actors, as well as international organizations within their respective mandates, to take fully into account the need to promote the effective realization of the right to food for all, including in the ongoing negotiations in different fields;

21. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen national commitment as well as international assistance, upon the request of and in cooperation with the affected countries, towards the full realization and protection of the right to food, and in particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting the enjoyment of the right to food;

22. *Takes note with appreciation* of the growing movement, in different regions of the world, towards the adoption of framework laws, national strategies and measures in support of the full realization of the right to food for all;

23. *Stresses* the need to make efforts to mobilize and optimize the allocation and utilization of technical and financial resources from all sources, including external debt relief for developing countries, and to reinforce national actions to implement sustainable food security policies;

24. *Calls for* the early conclusion and a successful, development-oriented outcome of the Doha Round of trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization as a contribution to creating international conditions that permit the full realization of the right to food;

25. *Stresses* that all States should make all efforts to ensure that their international policies of a political and economic nature, including international

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 2400, No. 43345.

¹² Resolution 61/295, annex.

trade agreements, do not have a negative impact on the right to food in other countries;

26. *Recalls* the importance of the New York Declaration on Action against Hunger and Poverty, and recommends the continuation of efforts aimed at identifying additional sources of financing for the fight against hunger and poverty, as well as non-communicable diseases;

27. *Recognizes* that the promises made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of persons who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in this regard, and once again invites all international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the necessary funding to realize the aim of halving by 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, as well as the right to food as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;³

28. *Reaffirms* that integrating food and nutritional support, with the goal that all people at all times will have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, is part of a comprehensive effort to improve public health, including the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

29. *Urges* States to give adequate priority in their development strategies and expenditures to the realization of the right to food;

30. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution both to the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, food production, breeding projects on diversity of crops and livestock, and institutional innovations such as community seed banks, farmer field schools and seed fairs and to the provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities related to emergency situations, for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

31. *Also stresses* that States parties to the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights should consider implementing that agreement in a manner that is supportive of food security, while being mindful of the obligation of Member States to promote and protect the right to food;

32. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders to support national efforts aimed at responding rapidly to the food crises currently occurring across different regions, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions, including Southern Africa;

33. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to continue to promote policies and projects that have a positive impact on the right to food, to ensure that partners respect the right to food in the implementation of common projects, to support strategies of Member States aimed at the fulfilment of the right to food and to avoid any actions that could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food;

34. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur;¹³

35. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as extended by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 13/4 of 24 March 2010;¹⁴

36. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

37. *Welcomes* the work already done by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in promoting the right to adequate food, in particular its general comment No. 12 (1999) on the right to adequate food (article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights),¹⁵ in which the Committee affirmed, inter alia, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person and is indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights, and is also inseparable from social justice, requiring the adoption of appropriate economic, environmental and social policies, at both the national and the international levels, oriented to the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of all human rights for all;

38. *Recalls* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant),¹⁶ in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable access to water resources for human consumption and agriculture in realization of the right to adequate food;

39. *Reaffirms* that the Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security, adopted by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in November 2004,⁶ represent a practical tool to promote the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and looks forward to the holding of a meeting for a 10-year retrospective on progress made in implementing the Guidelines to mark the tenth anniversary of their adoption, at the forty-first session of the Committee on World Food Security, to be held in October 2014;

40. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task, to supply all necessary information requested by him and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries to enable him to fulfil his mandate more effectively;

¹³ See A/68/288.

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. II, sect. A.

¹⁵ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/2000/22 and Corr.1), annex V.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 2003, *Supplement No. 2* (E/2003/22), annex IV.

41. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session an interim report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food within his existing mandate;

42. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies, civil society actors and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate, inter alia, through the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

43. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-ninth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XXIII Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹

Reaffirming further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,²

Reaffirming the fundamental importance, including in response to terrorism and the fear of terrorism, of respecting all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law,

Reaffirming also that States are under the obligation to protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

Reaffirming further that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

Reiterating the important contribution of measures taken at all levels against terrorism, consistent with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, to the functioning of democratic institutions and the maintenance of peace and security and thereby to the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as the need to continue this fight, including through strengthening international cooperation and the role of the United Nations in this respect,

Reaffirming its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable, and renewing its commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

Deeply deploring the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of the fight against terrorism, as well as violations of international refugee and humanitarian law,

Noting with concern measures that can undermine human rights and the rule of law, such as the detention of persons suspected of acts of terrorism in the absence of a legal basis for detention and due process guarantees, the deprivation of liberty that amounts to placing a detained person outside the protection of the law, the trial of suspects without fundamental judicial guarantees, the illegal deprivation of liberty and transfer of individuals suspected of terrorist activities, and the return of suspects to countries without individual assessment of the risk of there being substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of subjection to torture, and limitations to effective scrutiny of counter-terrorism measures,

Stressing that all measures used in the fight against terrorism, including the profiling of individuals and the use of diplomatic assurances, memorandums of understanding and other transfer agreements or arrangements, must be in

¹ Resolution 217A (III).

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

compliance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law,

Stressing also that a criminal justice system based on respect for human rights and the rule of law, including due process and fair trial guarantees, is one of the best means for effectively countering terrorism and ensuring accountability,

Recalling article 30 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming that acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations are activities aimed at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy, threatening the territorial integrity and security of States and destabilizing legitimately constituted Governments, and that the international community should take the necessary steps to enhance cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,³

Recognizing that respect for all human rights, respect for democracy and respect for the rule of law are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Emphasizing the importance of properly interpreting and implementing the obligations of States with respect to torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and of abiding strictly by the definition of torture contained in article 1 of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment,⁴ in the fight against terrorism,

Recalling its resolution [67/99](#) of 14 December 2012, Human Rights Council resolution [19/19](#) of 23 March 2012⁵ and other relevant resolutions and decisions as stated in the preamble to resolution [65/221](#) of 21 December 2012, and welcoming the efforts of all relevant stakeholders to implement those resolutions,

Recalling also its resolution [60/288](#) of 8 September 2006, by which it adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and its resolution [66/282](#) of 29 June 2012 on the review of the Strategy, and reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism, recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but complementary and mutually reinforcing, and stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of terrorism,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution [22/8](#) of 21 March 2013,⁶ by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,

Recalling its resolution [64/115](#) of 16 December 2009 and the annex thereto entitled "Introduction and implementation of sanctions imposed by the United Nations", in particular the provisions of the annex regarding listing and delisting procedures,

³ See sect. I, para. 17, of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III).

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1465, No. 24841.

⁵ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and Corr.1), chap. III.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/68/53), chap. IV.

1. *Reaffirms* that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

2. *Deeply deplores* the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims and their families, expresses its profound solidarity with them, and stresses the importance of providing them with assistance and other appropriate measures to protect, respect and promote their human rights;

3. *Expresses serious concern* at the occurrence of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as of international refugee and humanitarian law, committed in the context of countering terrorism;

4. *Reaffirms* that all counter-terrorism measures should be implemented in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, thereby taking into full consideration the human rights of all, including persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and in this regard must not be discriminatory on grounds such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin;

5. *Also reaffirms* the obligation of States, in accordance with article 4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,⁷ to respect certain rights as non-derogable in any circumstances, recalls, in regard to all other Covenant rights, that any measures derogating from the provisions of the Covenant must be in accordance with that article in all cases, and underlines the exceptional and temporary nature of any such derogations,⁸ and in this regard calls upon States to raise awareness about the importance of these obligations among national authorities involved in combating terrorism;

6. *Urges* States, while countering terrorism:

(a) To fully comply with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, with regard to the absolute prohibition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(b) To take all steps necessary to ensure that persons deprived of liberty, regardless of the place of arrest or detention, benefit from the guarantees to which they are entitled under international law, including the review of the detention and other fundamental judicial guarantees;

(c) To ensure that no form of deprivation of liberty places a detained person outside the protection of the law, and to respect the safeguards concerning the liberty, security and dignity of the person, in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;

(d) To take all steps necessary to ensure the right of anyone arrested or detained on a criminal charge to be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and the entitlement to trial within a reasonable time or release;

⁷ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

⁸ See, for example, General Comment No. 29 on states of emergency adopted by the Human Rights Committee on 24 July 2001.

(e) To treat all prisoners in all places of detention in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;

(f) To respect the right of persons to equality before the law, courts and tribunals and to a fair trial as provided for in international law, including international human rights law, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and international humanitarian and refugee law;

(g) To safeguard the right to privacy in accordance with international law, in particular international human rights law, and to take measures to ensure that interferences with or restrictions on such right are not arbitrary, are adequately regulated by law⁹ and are subject to effective oversight and appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other means;

(h) To protect all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, bearing in mind that certain counter-terrorism measures may have an impact on the enjoyment of these rights;

(i) To ensure that guidelines and practices in all border control operations and other pre-entry mechanisms are clear and fully respect their obligations under international law, particularly international refugee and human rights law, towards persons seeking international protection;

(j) To fully respect non-refoulement obligations under international refugee and human rights law and, at the same time, to review, with full respect for these obligations and other legal safeguards, the validity of a refugee status decision in an individual case if credible and relevant evidence comes to light that indicates that the person in question has committed any criminal acts, including terrorist acts, falling under the exclusion clauses under international refugee law;

(k) To refrain from returning persons, including in cases related to terrorism, to their countries of origin or to a third State whenever such transfer would be contrary to their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law, including in cases where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of subjection to torture, or where their life or freedom would be threatened, in violation of international refugee law, on account of their race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, bearing in mind obligations that States may have to prosecute individuals not returned, and in that case to adhere to the principle of extradite or prosecute;

(l) Insofar as such an act runs contrary to their obligations under international law, not to expose individuals to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by way of return to another country;

(m) To ensure that their laws criminalizing acts of terrorism are accessible, formulated with precision, non-discriminatory, non-retroactive and in accordance with international law, including human rights law;

(n) Not to resort to profiling based on stereotypes founded on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law, including on racial, ethnic and/or religious grounds;

⁹ See A/HRC/13/37 and Add.1 and 2.

(o) To ensure that the interrogation methods used against terrorism suspects are consistent with their international obligations and are reviewed on a regular basis to prevent the risk of violations of their obligations under international law, including international human rights, and refugee and humanitarian law;

(p) To ensure that any person who alleges that his or her human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated has access to a fair procedure for seeking full, effective and enforceable remedy within a reasonable time and that where such violations have been established, victims receive adequate, effective and prompt reparation, which should include, as appropriate, restitution, compensation, rehabilitation and guarantees of non-recurrence, including where the violation constitutes a crime under international or national law, to ensure accountability for those responsible for such violations;

(q) To ensure due process guarantees, consistent with all relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and their obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 1949¹⁰ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,¹¹ and the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees¹² and the 1967 Protocol thereto¹³ in their respective fields of applicability;

(r) To shape, review and implement all counter-terrorism measures in accordance with the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination;

(s) To ensure that any measures taken or means employed to counter terrorism, including the use of remotely piloted aircraft, comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality;

7. *Also urges* States, while countering terrorism, to take into account relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions on human rights, and encourages them to give due consideration to the recommendations of the special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and to the relevant comments and views of United Nations human rights treaty bodies;

8. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,¹⁴ the implementation of which will make a significant contribution in support of the rule of law in countering terrorism, including by prohibiting places of secret detention, and encourages all States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention;

9. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to sign, ratify or accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and encourages States to consider ratifying as a matter of priority the

¹⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

¹² *Ibid.*, vol. 189, No. 2545.

¹³ *Ibid.*, vol. 606, No. 8791.

¹⁴ Resolution 61/177, annex.

Optional Protocol thereto,¹⁵ the implementation of which will make a significant contribution in support of the rule of law in countering terrorism;

10. *Calls upon* the United Nations entities involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;

11. *Recognizes* the need to continue ensuring that fair and clear procedures under the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime are strengthened in order to enhance their efficiency and transparency, and welcomes and encourages the ongoing efforts of the Security Council in support of these objectives, including by supporting the enhanced role of the Office of the Ombudsperson and continuing to review all the names of individuals and entities in the regime, while emphasizing the importance of these sanctions in countering terrorism;

12. *Urges* States, while ensuring full compliance with their international obligations, to ensure the rule of law and to include adequate human rights guarantees in their national procedures for the listing of individuals and entities with a view to combating terrorism;

13. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to make recommendations, in the context of his mandate, with regard to preventing, combating and redressing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the context of countering terrorism, and to continue to report and engage in interactive dialogues on an annual basis with the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in accordance with their programmes of work;

14. *Requests* all Governments to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals of the Special Rapporteur and providing the information requested, and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to his requests to visit their countries, as well as to cooperate with other relevant procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council regarding the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

15. *Welcomes* the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to implement the mandate given to her by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/158 of 16 December 2005, and requests her to continue her efforts in this regard;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;¹⁶

17. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,¹⁷ which refers, inter alia, to the use of remotely piloted aircraft, and notes the recommendations, including the urgent and imperative need to seek agreement among Member States on legal questions pertaining to remotely piloted aircraft operations;

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2375, No. 24841.

¹⁶ A/68/298.

¹⁷ A/68/389.

18. *Encourages* States while countering terrorism to undertake prompt, independent and impartial fact-finding inquiries whenever there are plausible indications of possible breaches to their obligations under international human rights law, with a view to ensuring accountability;

19. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur which refers to the compatibility of the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsperson established by Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) with international human rights norms;¹⁸

20. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to continue to contribute to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including by raising awareness, inter alia, through regular dialogue, about the need to respect human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism and support the exchange of best practices to promote and protect human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in all aspects of counter-terrorism, including, as appropriate, those identified by the Special Rapporteur in his report submitted to the Human Rights Council pursuant to Council resolution 15/15;

21. *Welcomes* the ongoing dialogue established in the context of the fight against terrorism between the Security Council and its respective bodies, namely, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, with the relevant bodies for the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages the Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee to strengthen the links, cooperation and dialogue with relevant human rights bodies, in particular with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, other relevant special procedures and mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and relevant treaty bodies, giving due regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law in their ongoing work relating to counter-terrorism;

22. *Calls upon* States and other relevant actors, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which, inter alia, reaffirms respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism;

23. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to continue its efforts to ensure that the United Nations can better coordinate and enhance its support to Member States in their efforts to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights, and refugee and humanitarian law while countering terrorism, and to encourage the Working Groups of the Task Force to incorporate a human rights perspective into their work;

24. *Encourages* relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular those participating in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which provide technical assistance, upon request, consistent with their mandates, related to the

¹⁸ A/67/396.

prevention and suppression of terrorism, to step up their efforts to ensure respect for international human rights and refugee and humanitarian law, as well as the rule of law, as an element of technical assistance, including in the adoption and implementation of legislative and other measures by States;

25. *Urges* relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, within its mandate related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism, to step up their efforts to provide, upon request, technical assistance for building the capacity of Member States in the development and implementation of programmes of assistance and support for victims of terrorism in accordance with relevant national legislation;

26. *Calls upon* international, regional and subregional organizations to strengthen information-sharing, coordination and cooperation in promoting the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law while countering terrorism;

27. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly at its seventieth session;

28. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

Draft resolution XXIV Protection of migrants

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the protection of migrants, the most recent of which is resolution [67/172](#) of 20 December 2012, as well as its resolutions [66/128](#) of 19 December 2011 on violence against women migrant workers and [67/185](#) of 20 December 2012 on promoting efforts to eliminate violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families, and recalling also Human Rights Council resolution [23/20](#) of 14 June 2013,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race,

Reaffirming also that everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State and the right to leave any country, including his or her own, and to return to his or her country,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,

Acknowledging the relevant contribution of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to the international system for the protection of migrants,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, in which States are called upon to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants regardless of migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability,

Recalling also the provisions concerning migrants contained in the outcome documents of major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, which recognizes that migrant workers are among the most affected and vulnerable in the context of financial and economic crises,

Recalling further Commission on Population and Development resolutions [2006/2](#) of 10 May 2006 and [2009/1](#) of 3 April 2009, and its resolution [2013/1](#) of 26 April 2013 on new trends in migration: demographic aspects,

Taking note of advisory opinion OC-16/99 of 1 October 1999 on the Right to Information on Consular Assistance in the Framework of the Guarantees of the Due Process of Law and advisory opinion OC-18/03 of 17 September 2003 on the Juridical Condition and Rights of Undocumented Migrants, issued by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights,

Taking note also of the Judgment of the International Court of Justice of 31 March 2004 in the case concerning *Avena and Other Mexican Nationals* and the Judgment of the Court of 19 January 2009 regarding the request for interpretation of the *Avena* Judgment, and recalling the obligations of States reaffirmed in both decisions,

Underlining the importance of the Human Rights Council in promoting respect for the protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, including migrants,

Recognizing that women represent almost half of all international migrants, and in this regard recognizing also that women migrant workers are important contributors to social and economic development in countries of origin and destination, and underlining the value and dignity of their labour, including the labour of domestic workers,

Recognizing also the importance of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013, which recognizes the important contribution of migration in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, and recognizes that human mobility is a key factor for sustainable development, which should receive due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda,

Bearing in mind the seventh meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Sweden in May 2014, whose main theme will be “Unlocking the potential of migration for inclusive development” and that will take into consideration the results of the second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development,

Recognizing the cultural and economic contributions made by migrants to receiving societies and their communities of origin, as well as the need to identify appropriate means of maximizing development benefits and responding to the challenges that migration poses to countries of origin, transit and destination, especially in the light of the impact of the financial and economic crisis, and committing to ensuring dignified, humane treatment with applicable protections and to strengthening mechanisms for international cooperation,

Emphasizing the global character of the migratory phenomenon, the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in this regard, as appropriate, and the need to protect the human rights of all migrants, particularly at a time in which migration flows have increased in the globalized economy and take place in a context of continued security concerns,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States under international law, as applicable, to exercise due diligence to prevent crimes against migrants and to investigate and punish perpetrators, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims,

Affirming that crimes against migrants, including trafficking in persons, continue to pose a serious challenge and require a concerted international assessment and response and genuine multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination for their eradication,

Bearing in mind that policies and initiatives on the issue of migration, including those that refer to the orderly management of migration, should promote holistic approaches that take into account the causes and consequences of the phenomenon, as well as full respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants,

Stressing the importance of regulations and laws regarding irregular migration, at all levels of government, being in accordance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights law,

Stressing also the obligation of States to protect the human rights of migrants regardless of their migration status, including when implementing their specific migration and border security policies, and expressing its concern at measures which, including in the context of policies aimed at reducing irregular migration, treat irregular migration as a criminal rather than as an administrative offence, where the effect of doing so is to deny migrants the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and in this regard recalling that sanctions and the treatment given to irregular migrants should be commensurate with their offences,

Aware that, as criminals take advantage of migratory flows and attempt to circumvent restrictive immigration policies, migrants become more vulnerable to, inter alia, kidnapping, extortion, forced labour, sexual exploitation, physical assault, debt servitude and abandonment,

Recognizing the contributions of young migrants to countries of origin and destination, and in that regard encouraging States to consider the specific circumstances and needs of young migrants,

Concerned about the large and growing number of migrants, especially women and children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents, who place themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect the human rights of those migrants,

Recognizing the importance of having a comprehensive and balanced approach to international migration, and bearing in mind that migration enriches the economic, political, social and cultural fabric of States and the historical and cultural ties that exist among some regions,

Recognizing also the obligations of countries of origin, transit and destination under international human rights law,

Underlining the importance for States, in cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, workers' organizations and the private sector, among other relevant stakeholders, to undertake information campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations, risks and rights in the event of migration in order to enable everyone to make informed decisions and to prevent anyone from utilizing dangerous means to cross international borders,

1. *Calls upon* States to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

2. *Expresses its concern* about the impact of financial and economic crises and natural disasters on international migration and migrants, and in that regard urges Governments to combat unfair and discriminatory treatment of migrants, in particular migrant workers and their families;

3. *Reaffirms* the rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the obligations of States under the International Covenants on Human Rights, and in this regard:

(a) Strongly condemns the acts, manifestations and expressions of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against migrants and the stereotypes often applied to them, including on the basis of religion or belief, and urges States to apply and, where needed, reinforce the existing laws when hate crimes, xenophobic or intolerant acts, manifestations or expressions against migrants occur, in order to eradicate impunity for those who commit those acts;

(b) Expresses concern about legislation adopted by some States that results in measures and practices that may restrict the human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants, and reaffirms that, when exercising their sovereign right to enact and implement migratory and border security measures, States have the duty to comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, in order to ensure full respect for the human rights of migrants;

(c) Calls upon States to ensure that their laws and policies, including in the areas of counter-terrorism and combating transnational organized crime, such as trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, fully respect the human rights of migrants;

(d) Calls upon States that have not done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a matter of priority, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to promote and raise awareness of the Convention;

(e) Takes note of the report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its seventeenth and eighteenth sessions;

4. *Also reaffirms* the duty of States to effectively promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, especially those of women and children, regardless of their migration status, in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international instruments to which they are party, and therefore:

(a) Calls upon all States to respect the human rights and inherent dignity of migrants, to put an end to arbitrary arrest and detention and, in order to avoid

excessive detention of irregular migrants, to review, where necessary, detention periods and to use alternatives to detention, where appropriate, including measures that have been successfully implemented by some States;

(b) Urges all States to adopt effective measures to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of liberty of migrants by individuals or groups;

(c) Requests States to adopt concrete measures to prevent the violation of the human rights of migrants while in transit, including in ports and airports and at borders and migration checkpoints, and train public officials who work in those facilities and in border areas to treat migrants respectfully and in accordance with the law;

(d) Calls upon States to prosecute, in conformity with applicable law, acts of violation of the human rights of migrants and their families, such as arbitrary detention, torture and violations of the right to life, including extrajudicial executions, during their transit from the country of origin to the country of destination and vice versa, including transit across national borders;

(e) Recognizing the particular vulnerability of migrants in transit situations, including through national borders, and the need to ensure full respect for their human rights also in these circumstances;

(f) Recognizes the importance of coordinated efforts of the international community to assist and support migrants stranded in vulnerable situations;

(g) Underlines the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recalls that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received;

(h) Reaffirms emphatically the duty of States parties to ensure full respect for and observance of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, in particular with regard to the right of all foreign nationals, regardless of their migration status, to communicate with a consular official of the sending State in case of arrest, imprisonment, custody or detention, and the obligation of the receiving State to inform the foreign national without delay of his or her rights under the Convention;

(i) Requests all States, in conformity with national legislation and applicable international legal instruments to which they are party, to enforce labour law effectively, including by addressing violations of such law, with regard to migrant workers' labour relations and working conditions, inter alia, those related to their remuneration and conditions of health, safety at work and the right to freedom of association;

(j) Invites Member States to consider ratifying relevant International Labour Organization conventions, including Convention No. 189 on decent work for domestic workers;

(k) Encourages all States to remove unlawful obstacles, where they exist, that may prevent the safe, transparent, unrestricted and expeditious transfer of remittances, earnings, assets and pensions of migrants to their country of origin or to any other countries, in conformity with applicable legislation and agreements, and to consider, as appropriate, measures to solve other problems that may impede such transfers;

(l) Recalls that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights recognizes that everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted to him or her;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of protecting persons in vulnerable situations, and in this regard:

(a) Expresses its concern about the increase in the activities of transnational and national organized crime entities and others who profit from crimes against migrants, especially women and children, without regard for dangerous and inhumane conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law and contrary to international standards;

(b) Also expresses its concern about the high level of impunity enjoyed by traffickers and their accomplices as well as other members of organized crime entities and, in this context, the denial of rights and justice to migrants who have suffered from abuse;

(c) Welcomes immigration programmes, adopted by some countries, that allow migrants to integrate fully into the host countries, facilitate family reunification and promote a harmonious, tolerant and respectful environment, and encourages States to consider the possibility of adopting these types of programmes;

(d) Calls upon States that have not already done so to provide for the protection of the human rights of women migrant workers, to promote fair labour conditions and to ensure that all women, including care workers, are legally protected against violence and exploitation;

(e) Encourages States to implement gender-sensitive policies and programmes for women migrant workers, to provide safe and legal channels that recognize the skills and education of women migrant workers and, as appropriate, to facilitate their productive employment, decent work and integration into the labour force, including in the fields of education and science and technology;

(f) Encourages all States to develop international migration policies and programmes that include a gender perspective, in order to adopt the necessary measures to better protect women and girls against dangers and abuse during migration;

(g) Calls upon States to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in their policies of integration, return and family reunification;

(h) Encourages all States to prevent and eliminate discriminatory policies and legislation at all levels of government that deny migrant children access to education, and, while taking into account the best interests of the child as a primary consideration, to foster the successful integration of migrant children into the education system and the removal of barriers to their education in host countries and countries of origin;

(i) Urges States to ensure that repatriation mechanisms allow for the identification and special protection of persons in vulnerable situations, including persons with disabilities, and take into account, in conformity with their

international obligations and commitments, the principle of the best interests of the child and family reunification;

(j) Urges States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the supplementing protocols thereto to implement them fully, and calls upon States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to them as a matter of priority;

6. *Encourages* States to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges and best practices in the implementation of the international framework for the protection of the rights of the child in the context of migration when designing and implementing their migration policies;

7. *Also encourages* States to protect migrant victims of national and transnational organized crime, including kidnapping and trafficking and, in some instances, smuggling, including through the implementation of programmes and policies that guarantee protection and access to medical, psychosocial and legal assistance, where appropriate;

8. *Further encourages* Member States that have not already done so to enact national legislation and to take further effective measures to combat trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, recognizing that these crimes may endanger the lives of migrants or subject them to harm, servitude, exploitation, debt bondage, slavery, sexual exploitation or forced labour, and also encourages Member States to strengthen international cooperation to prevent, investigate and combat such trafficking and smuggling;

9. *Stresses* the importance of international, regional and bilateral cooperation in the protection of the human rights of migrants, and therefore:

(a) Requests all States, international organizations and relevant stakeholders to take into account in their policies and initiatives on migration issues the global character of the migratory phenomenon and to give due consideration to international, regional and bilateral cooperation in this field, including by undertaking dialogues on migration that include countries of origin, transit and destination, as well as civil society, including migrants, with a view to addressing, in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, its causes and consequences and the challenge of undocumented or irregular migration, granting priority to the protection of the human rights of migrants;

(b) Encourages States to take the measures necessary to achieve policy coherence on migration at the national, regional and international levels, including by ensuring coordinated child protection policies and systems across borders that are in full compliance with international human rights law;

(c) Also encourages States to cooperate effectively in protecting witnesses in cases of smuggling of migrants;

(d) Further encourages States to cooperate effectively in protecting witnesses and victims in cases of trafficking in persons, regardless of their migration status;

(e) Calls upon the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations and multilateral institutions to enhance their cooperation in the

development of methodologies for the collection and processing of statistical data on international migration and the situation of migrants in countries of origin, transit and destination and to assist Member States in their capacity-building efforts in this regard;

10. *Encourages* giving appropriate consideration to the issue of migration and development in the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda through, inter alia, integrating a human rights perspective and mainstreaming a gender perspective, and therefore:

(a) Requests Member States, the United Nations system, international organizations, civil society and all relevant stakeholders, especially the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights of migrants, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration and Development and the International Organization for Migration and other Global Migration Group members, to give due consideration to international migration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

(b) Recognizes the importance of the contribution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, as well as other key actors, to the discussion on international migration;

11. *Encourages* States, relevant international organizations, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to continue and to enhance their dialogue in relevant international meetings with a view to strengthening and making more inclusive public policies aimed at promoting and respecting human rights, including those of migrants;

12. *Requests* Governments and international organizations to take appropriate measures to give due consideration to the Declaration of the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development, held on 3 and 4 October 2013, which reaffirmed the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, especially those of women and children, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

13. *Invites* the Chair of the Committee to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights", as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

14. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to submit his report to the General Assembly and to engage in an interactive dialogue at its sixty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights";

15. *Takes note* of the report of the Special Rapporteur submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session in accordance with resolution [67/172](#);

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in that report an analysis on ways and means to promote and protect the rights of migrant children that ensure that the best interest of the child is a primary consideration, particularly in the case of unaccompanied migrant children and children separated from their families.

Draft resolution XXV

Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

The General Assembly,

Recalling that internally displaced persons are persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border,¹

Recognizing that internally displaced persons are to enjoy, in full equality, the same rights and freedoms under international and domestic law as do other persons in their country,

Deeply disturbed by the alarmingly high numbers of internally displaced persons throughout the world, for reasons including armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters, who receive inadequate protection and assistance, and conscious of the serious challenges that this is creating for the international community,

Recognizing that natural disasters are a cause of internal displacement, and concerned about factors, such as climate change, that are expected to exacerbate the impact of natural hazards and climate-related events,

Recognizing also that the consequences of hazards can be prevented or substantially mitigated by integrating disaster risk reduction strategies into national development policies and programmes,

Conscious of the human rights, humanitarian and development dimensions, as well as the possible peacebuilding dimension, of internal displacement, including in long-term displacement situations, the often heightened vulnerability of women and children as well as persons with disabilities, and the responsibilities of States and the international community to strengthen further their protection and assistance,

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

Reaffirming that all persons, including those internally displaced, have the right to freedom of movement and residence and should be protected against arbitrary displacement,²

Noting the international community's growing awareness of the issue of internally displaced persons worldwide, including the millions living in protracted situations of displacement, many of them outside camp settings in urban areas, and the urgency of providing adequate humanitarian assistance to and protection of internally displaced persons and support to local host communities, addressing the root causes of displacement and finding durable solutions for internally displaced

¹ See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex), introduction, para. 2.

² See Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, principle 6.

persons in their countries, including voluntary return in safety and with dignity, as well as voluntary local integration in the areas to which persons have been displaced or voluntary settlement in another part of the country, without prejudice to the right of internally displaced persons to leave their country or to seek asylum,

Recalling the relevant norms of international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law, and recognizing that the protection of internally displaced persons has been strengthened by identifying, reaffirming and consolidating specific standards for their protection, in particular through the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,³

Recalling also the relevance of international humanitarian law, including the Geneva Conventions of 1949⁴ and the Additional Protocols thereto, of 1977,⁵ as a vital legal framework for the protection of and assistance to civilians in armed conflict and under foreign occupation, including internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the increasing dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement when dealing with situations of internal displacement,

Deploring practices of forced displacement and their negative consequences for the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by large groups of populations, and recalling the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court that define the deportation or forcible transfer of population as a crime against humanity and the unlawful deportation, transfer or ordering of the displacement of the civilian population as war crimes,⁶

Expressing its appreciation to those Governments and intergovernmental, regional and non-governmental organizations that have supported and facilitated the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and of his predecessor, the former Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and, according to their roles and responsibilities, have helped to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the continuing cooperation between the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons and national Governments and the relevant offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as with other international and regional organizations, and encouraging further strengthening of this collaboration in order to promote better strategies for, protection of, assistance to and durable solutions for internally displaced persons,

Acknowledging with appreciation the important and independent contribution of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and other humanitarian agencies in protecting and assisting internally displaced persons, in cooperation with national Governments and relevant international bodies,

Welcoming the priorities set by the Special Rapporteur as contained in his report to the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth session and the two strategic

³ E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.

⁶ Art. 7, paras. 1 (d) and 2 (d), and art. 8, paras. 2 (a) (vii) and 2 (e) (viii) (see United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544).

objectives of supporting Governments in developing national instruments on internal displacement and facilitating viable durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through the engagement of development actors,⁷

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,⁸ regarding the need to develop global strategies to address the problem of internal displacement, and recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council,

Recalling also its resolution [66/165](#) of 19 December 2011 and Human Rights Council resolutions 20/9 of 5 July 2012 and 23/8 of 13 June 2013,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons⁹ and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur for the activities undertaken so far, for the catalytic role that he plays in raising the level of awareness about the plight of internally displaced persons and for his ongoing efforts to address their development and other specific needs, including through the mainstreaming of the human rights of internally displaced persons into all relevant parts of the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, through continuous dialogue with Governments and all intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, to continue his analysis of the root causes of internal displacement and of the needs and human rights of those displaced, measures of prevention, including early warning, and ways to strengthen protection and assistance, as well as durable solutions for internally displaced persons, and, in the latter regard, to use in his activities the Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,¹⁰ and also encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to promote comprehensive strategies, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

4. *Recognizes* the adverse effects of climate change as contributors to environmental degradation and extreme weather events, which may, among other factors, contribute to human displacement, and encourages the Special Rapporteur, in close collaboration with States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to continue to explore the human rights implications and dimensions of disaster-induced internal displacement, with a view to supporting Member States in their efforts to build local resilience and capacity to prevent displacement or to provide assistance and protection to those who are forced to flee;

5. *Calls upon* States to provide durable solutions, including within their national development plans, and encourages strengthened international cooperation, in particular between humanitarian and development actors, including through the provision of resources and expertise to assist affected countries, in particular developing countries, in their national efforts and policies related to assistance,

⁷ See A/HRC/16/43.

⁸ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁹ A/68/225.

¹⁰ A/HRC/13/21/Add.4.

protection and rehabilitation for internally displaced persons and the integration of the human rights and needs of internally displaced persons into both rural and urban development strategies, as well as the participation of both internally displaced persons and host communities in the design and implementation of those strategies;

6. *Expresses particular concern* that many internally displaced children, particularly girls, lack access to education in all phases of displacement owing to attacks against schools, damaged or destroyed school buildings, insecurity, loss of documentation, language barriers and discrimination, and calls upon States, in cooperation with all other relevant actors, including humanitarian and development agencies and donors, to ensure the right to a quality education, including primary and secondary education, for internally displaced children, without discrimination of any kind, as well as to support existing schools to enable them to include internally displaced persons, and calls upon parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian character of schools and other educational institutions and to refrain from undertaking actions that could adversely affect the protection of these buildings against direct attacks;

7. *Expresses deep concern* about the full range of threats and human rights violations and abuses experienced by internally displaced women and girls in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, recognizing that those women and girls who are particularly vulnerable or disadvantaged may be specifically targeted or at increased risk of violence, and recognizes the need to provide better support to victims and to support both national and international efforts to build the capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict;

8. *Welcomes* the initiatives undertaken by regional organizations, such as the African Union, the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, the Organization of American States and the Council of Europe, to address the protection, assistance and development needs of internally displaced persons and to find durable solutions for them, and encourages regional organizations to strengthen their activities and their cooperation with the Special Rapporteur;

9. *Also welcomes* the adoption and entry into force of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention), which builds on the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region and which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons in Africa, encourages African States to consider signing and/or ratifying the Convention, and encourages other regional mechanisms to consider the development of their own regional normative frameworks for the protection of internally displaced persons;

10. *Recognizes* that Member States have the primary responsibility to promote durable solutions for their internally displaced persons, thus contributing to their national, economic and social development processes, and encourages the international community, the United Nations system, the Special Rapporteur, relevant international and regional organizations and donor countries to continue to support international, regional and national efforts to meet the needs of internally displaced persons on the basis of solidarity, the principles of international cooperation and the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement³ and to ensure that

humanitarian assistance, early recovery and development assistance efforts are appropriately funded;

11. *Expresses particular concern* about the grave problems faced by many internally displaced women and children, especially violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking in persons, forced recruitment and abduction, and encourages the continued commitment of the Special Rapporteur to promote action to address their particular assistance, protection and development needs, as well as those of other groups with special needs, such as severely traumatized individuals, older persons and persons with disabilities, taking into account all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the Security Council;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of consultation with internally displaced persons and host communities by Governments and other relevant actors, in accordance with their specific mandates, during all phases of displacement, as well as the participation of internally displaced persons, where appropriate, in policies, programmes and activities pertaining to them, taking into account the primary responsibility of States for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

13. *Calls upon* States, in cooperation with international agencies and other stakeholders, to particularly provide for and support the full and meaningful participation of internally displaced women, at all levels of decision-making processes and in all activities that have a direct impact on their lives, in all aspects of internal displacement, including the promotion and protection of human rights, the prevention of human rights violations and the design and implementation of durable solutions, peace processes, peacebuilding, transitional justice, post-conflict reconstruction and development;

14. *Notes* the importance of taking the human rights and the specific protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons into consideration, when appropriate, in peace processes, and emphasizes that durable solutions for internally displaced persons, including through voluntary return, sustainable reintegration and rehabilitation processes and their active participation, as appropriate, in the peace process, are necessary elements of effective peacebuilding;

15. *Welcomes* the role of the Peacebuilding Commission in this regard, and continues to urge the Commission to intensify its efforts, within its mandate, in cooperation with national and transitional Governments and in consultation with the relevant United Nations entities, to incorporate the rights and the specific needs of internally displaced persons, including their voluntary return in safety and with dignity, reintegration and rehabilitation, as well as related land and property issues, when advising on or proposing country-specific peacebuilding strategies for post conflict situations in cases under consideration;

16. *Recognizes* the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement as an important international framework for the protection of internally displaced persons, welcomes the fact that an increasing number of States, United Nations organizations and regional and non-governmental organizations are applying them as a standard, and encourages all relevant actors to make use of the Guiding Principles when dealing with situations of internal displacement;

17. *Welcomes* the use of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement by the Special Rapporteur in his dialogue with Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant actors, and requests him to continue his efforts to further the dissemination, promotion, application and integration into domestic laws and policies of the Guiding Principles and to provide support for efforts to promote capacity-building and the use of the Guiding Principles, as well as the development of domestic legislation and policies;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* that an increasing number of States have adopted domestic legislation and policies dealing with all stages of displacement, encourages States to continue to do so in an inclusive and non-discriminatory way and consistent with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, including through the identification of a national focal point within the Government for issues of internal displacement and the allocation of budget resources, and encourages the international community and national actors to provide financial support and cooperation to Governments, upon request, in this regard;

19. *Urges* all Governments to continue to facilitate the activities of the Special Rapporteur, in particular Governments with situations of internal displacement, and to respond favourably to requests from the Special Rapporteur for visits so as to enable him to continue and enhance dialogue with Governments in addressing situations of internal displacement, and thanks those Governments that have already done so;

20. *Invites* Governments to give serious consideration, in dialogue with the Special Rapporteur, to the recommendations and suggestions addressed to them, in accordance with his mandate, and to inform him of measures taken thereon;

21. *Calls upon* Governments to provide protection and assistance, including reintegration and development assistance, to internally displaced persons and to facilitate the efforts of the relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian organizations in these respects by further improving the access of humanitarian personnel and the delivery of supplies and equipment to internally displaced persons and by maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of camps and settlements for internally displaced persons where they exist, as well as by taking the steps necessary to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel so that they may perform efficiently their task of assisting internally displaced persons;

22. *Emphasizes* the central role of the Emergency Relief Coordinator for the coordination of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, inter alia, through the inter-agency cluster system, welcomes continued initiatives taken in order to ensure better protection, assistance and development strategies for internally displaced persons, as well as better coordination of activities regarding them, and emphasizes the need to strengthen the capacities of the United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to meet the immense humanitarian challenges of internal displacement;

23. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations organizations and humanitarian assistance, human rights and development organizations to enhance their collaboration and coordination, through the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and United Nations country teams in countries with situations of internal displacement, and to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur, and requests the continued participation of the Special Rapporteur in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and its subsidiary bodies;

24. *Encourages* Member States, humanitarian agencies, donors, development actors and other providers of development assistance to continue to work together, in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur, to provide a more predictable response to the needs of internally displaced persons, including long-term development assistance for the implementation of durable solutions, takes note of the decision by the Policy Committee of the Secretary-General of 4 October 2011 endorsing the preliminary framework on ending displacement in the aftermath of conflict, notes the rolling-out of the decision in select countries, and calls for United Nations agencies implementing the decision to cooperate closely with the Special Rapporteur in that regard and to use the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Framework on Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons in a manner that complements the decision of the Policy Committee;

25. *Notes with appreciation* the increased attention paid to the issue of internally displaced persons in the consolidated appeals process, and encourages further efforts in this regard;

26. *Also notes with appreciation* the increasing role of national human rights institutions in assisting internally displaced persons and in promoting and protecting their human rights;

27. *Recognizes* the need to collect reliable disaggregated data, including data disaggregated by age and sex, on internally displaced persons in order to improve policy, programming and response to internal displacement and, in this respect, the relevance of the inter-agency Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service and the global database on internally displaced persons maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre;

28. *Encourages* Governments, members of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations humanitarian coordinators and country teams to ensure the provision of reliable data on internal displacement situations, collaborating with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, requesting the support of the Joint Internally Displaced Person Profiling Service and providing financial resources, as appropriate in these respects;

29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the Special Rapporteur, from within existing resources, with all assistance necessary to carry out his mandate effectively, and encourages the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and all other relevant United Nations offices and agencies, to continue to support the Special Rapporteur;

30. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to seek the contributions of States, relevant organizations and institutions in order to create a more stable basis for his work;

31. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

32. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons at its seventieth session.

Draft resolution XXVI
Promotion of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of
Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect
Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental
Freedoms: protecting women human rights defenders

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling its resolution [53/144](#) of 9 December 1998, by which it adopted by consensus the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms annexed to that resolution, and reiterating the fundamental importance of the Declaration and its promotion and implementation,

Recalling also all previous resolutions on this subject, including its resolution [66/164](#) of 19 December 2011 and Human Rights Council resolutions 16/5 of 24 March 2011¹ and 22/6 of 21 March 2013,²

Recalling further the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and their review outcomes, as well as the agreed conclusions and resolutions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

Acknowledging the attention given by the Human Rights Council to the importance of women human rights defenders and of ensuring their protection and enabling their work in recent resolutions, and noting the panel discussion on women human rights defenders convened on 26 June 2012,

Acknowledging also that women of all ages who engage in the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and all people who engage in the defence of the rights of women and gender equality, individually and in association with others, play an important role, at the local, national, regional and international levels, in the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms,

Noting with deep concern that in many countries persons and organizations engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms, including women human rights defenders, frequently face threats and harassment and suffer insecurity as a result of those activities, including through the curtailment of freedom of association or expression or the right to peaceful assembly, or abuse of civil or criminal proceedings,

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/66/53)*, chap. II, sect. A.

² *Ibid.*, *Sixty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/68/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

Gravely concerned that women human rights defenders are at risk of and suffer violations and abuses, including systematic violations and abuses of their fundamental rights to life, liberty and security of person, to psychological and physical integrity, to privacy and respect for private and family life and to freedom of opinion and expression, association and peaceful assembly, and in addition can experience gender-based violence, rape and other forms of sexual violence, harassment and verbal abuse and attacks on reputation, online and offline, by State actors, including law enforcement personnel and security forces, and non-State actors, such as those related to family and community, in both public and private spheres,

Deeply concerned that historical and structural inequalities in power relations and discrimination against women, as well as various forms of extremism, have direct implications for the status and treatment of women, and that some women human rights defenders' rights are violated or abused and their work stigmatized owing to discriminatory practices and those social norms or patterns that serve to condone violence against women or perpetuate practices involving such violence,

Gravely concerned that impunity for violations and abuses against women human rights defenders persists owing to factors including a lack of reporting, documentation, investigation and access to justice, social barriers and constraints with regard to addressing gender-based violence, including sexual violence and the stigmatization that may result from such violations and abuses, and a lack of recognition of the legitimate role of women human rights defenders, all of which entrench or institutionalize gender discrimination,

Concerned that all forms of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, can lead to the targeting or vulnerability to violence of women human rights defenders, who are prone to multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination,

Aware that information-technology-related violations, abuses, discrimination and violence against women, including women human rights defenders, such as online harassment, cyberstalking, violation of privacy, censorship and hacking of e mail accounts, mobile phones and other electronic devices, with a view to discrediting them and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them, are a growing concern and can be a manifestation of systemic gender-based discrimination, requiring effective responses compliant with human rights,

Mindful that domestic law and administrative provisions and their application should enable the work of women human rights defenders, including by avoiding any criminalization or stigmatization of the important activities and legitimate role of women human rights defenders and the communities of which they are a part or on whose behalf they work, as well as avoiding impediments, obstructions, restrictions or selective enforcement thereof contrary to relevant provisions of international human rights law,

Recalling that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms rests with the State, and reaffirming that national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and other international obligations of the State in the field of human rights and fundamental freedoms is the juridical framework within which human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, conduct their activities,

Gravely concerned that, in some instances, national security and counter-terrorism legislation and other measures have been misused to target human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, or have hindered their work and endangered their safety in a manner contrary to international law,

Recognizing the urgent need to address, and to take concrete steps to prevent and stop, the use of legislation to hinder or limit unduly the ability of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, to exercise their work, including by reviewing and, where necessary, amending relevant legislation and its implementation in order to ensure compliance with States' obligations and commitments under international human rights law,

Underlining the need for all appropriate measures to be taken to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women, in accordance with States' obligations and commitments under international human rights law, thereby addressing harmful attitudes, customs, practices and gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate violence against women, including women human rights defenders,

Reaffirming that the empowerment, autonomy and advancement of women and the improvement of their political, social, legal and economic status are essential to respect for all human rights, the growth and prosperity of society and the achievement of representative, transparent and accountable government, democratic institutions and sustainable development in all areas of life,

Recognizing the valuable work of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in promoting civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development,

Welcoming the opportunity afforded by the post-2015 development agenda for the global community to advance the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including gender equality and non-discrimination, as well as real and effective participation, including equal political participation, in decision-making processes,

Welcoming also the steps taken by some States towards the adoption of national policies or legislation for the protection of individuals, groups and organs of society engaged in promoting and defending human rights, including as follow-up to the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council,

1. *Calls upon* all States to promote, translate and give full effect to the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, including by taking appropriate, robust and practical steps to protect women human rights defenders;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, noting the particular attention given to women human rights defenders;³

³ Including A/68/262, A/67/292 and A/HRC/16/44 and Corr.1.

3. *Stresses* that respect and support for the activities of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, is essential to the overall enjoyment of human rights, and condemns all human rights violations and abuses committed against persons engaged in promoting and defending human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Recognizes* that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent 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 stresses 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;

5. *Expresses particular concern* about systemic and structural discrimination and violence faced by women human rights defenders of all ages, and calls upon States to take all measures necessary to ensure their protection and to integrate a gender perspective into their efforts to create a safe and enabling environment for the defence of human rights;

6. *Reiterates strongly* the right of anyone, individually and in association with others, to defend the human rights of women in all their aspects, and stresses the important role of women human rights defenders in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, to which everyone is entitled without distinction of any kind, including in addressing all forms of human rights violations, combating impunity, fighting poverty and discrimination, and promoting access to justice, democracy, the full participation of women in society, tolerance, human dignity and the right to development, while recalling that the exercise of these rights carries duties and responsibilities set out in the Declaration;

7. *Urges* States to acknowledge publicly the important and legitimate role of women human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy, the rule of law and development, as an essential component of ensuring their protection, including by publicly condemning violence and discrimination against women human rights defenders;

8. *Calls upon* States to ensure that human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, can perform their important role in the context of peaceful protests, in accordance with national legislation consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and international human rights law, and in this regard to ensure that no one is subject to excessive or indiscriminate use of force, arbitrary arrest or detention, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, enforced disappearance, abuse of criminal and civil proceedings or threats of such acts;

9. *Also calls upon* States to exercise due diligence in preventing violations and abuses against human rights defenders, including through practical steps to prevent threats, harassment and violence against women human rights defenders, who face particular risks, and in combating impunity by ensuring that those responsible for violations and abuses, including gender-based violence and threats against women human rights defenders, committed by State and non-State actors, including online, are promptly brought to justice through impartial investigations;

10. *Further calls upon* States to ensure that the promotion and protection of human rights are not criminalized or met with limitations in contravention of their obligations and commitments under international human rights law and that women human rights defenders are not prevented from enjoying universal human rights owing to their work, including by ensuring that all legal provisions, administrative measures and policies affecting women human rights defenders, including those aimed at preserving public morals, are clearly defined, determinable, non-retroactive and compatible with relevant provisions of international human rights law;

11. *Underlines* the fundamental principle of the independence of the judiciary, and that procedural safeguards must be in place in accordance with States' obligations and commitments under international human rights law in order to protect women human rights defenders from unwarranted criminal action and sanction as a consequence of their work in line with the Declaration;

12. *Also underlines* that women human rights defenders have the right to the lawful exercise of their occupation or profession, and that everyone who, as a result of his or her profession, can affect the human dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of others should respect those rights and freedoms and comply with relevant national and international standards of occupational and professional conduct or ethics;

13. *Stresses* that in the exercise of the rights and freedoms referred to in the Declaration, women human rights defenders, acting individually and in association with others, shall be subject only to such limitations as are in accordance with applicable international obligations and are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society;

14. *Urges* States to strengthen and implement legal, policy and other measures to promote gender equality, empower women and promote their autonomy and to promote and protect their equal participation, full involvement and leadership in society, including in the defence of human rights;

15. *Invites* leaders in all sectors of society and in their respective communities, including political, military, social and religious leaders and leaders in business and the media, to express public support for the important role of women human rights defenders and the legitimacy of their work;

16. *Calls upon* States to implement, effectively and expeditiously, Security Council resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1888 \(2009\)](#), [1889 \(2009\)](#), [1960 \(2010\)](#), [2106 \(2013\)](#) and [2122 \(2013\)](#) on women and peace and security, including through the provision of gender-sensitivity training for police officers and law enforcement personnel, inter alia, on the barriers that women human rights defenders face in gaining access to justice in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, ensuring the inclusion of sexual violence in the definition of acts prohibited by ceasefires and in provisions for ceasefire monitoring, and the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes, as a step towards the effective protection of women, including women human rights defenders;

17. *Strongly calls upon* States to refrain from, and ensure adequate protection from, any act of intimidation or reprisal against women human rights defenders who

cooperate, have cooperated or seek to cooperate with international institutions, including their family members and associates;

18. *Reaffirms* the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to unhindered access to and communication with international bodies, in particular the United Nations, its special procedures, the universal periodic review mechanism and the treaty bodies, as well as regional human rights mechanisms;

19. *Urges* States to develop and put in place comprehensive, sustainable and gender-sensitive public policies and programmes that support and protect women human rights defenders, including by providing adequate resources for immediate and long-term protection and making sure that these can be mobilized in a flexible and timely manner to guarantee effective physical and psychological protection, while also extending protection measures to their relatives, including children, and otherwise to take into account the role of many women human rights defenders as the main or sole caregiver in their families;

20. *Emphasizes* the need for the participation of women human rights defenders in the development of effective policies and programmes related to their protection, recognizing their independence and expertise with regard to their own needs, and the need to create and strengthen mechanisms for consultation and dialogue with women human rights defenders, such as focal points for human rights defenders within the public administration, for example, through national mechanisms for the advancement of women and girls, where they exist, or other mechanisms, depending on the national and local context;

21. *Urges* States to adopt and implement policies and programmes that provide women human rights defenders with access to effective remedies, including by ensuring:

(a) The effective participation of women human rights defenders in all initiatives, including transitional justice processes, to secure accountability for violations and abuses, and also ensuring that the guarantee of non-recurrence incorporates overcoming the root causes of gender-based violations and abuses in everyday life and institutions;

(b) Adequate access to comprehensive support services for those women human rights defenders who experience violence, including shelters, psychosocial services, counselling, medical care and legal and social services;

(c) That women human rights defenders who are victims of sexual and other forms of violence are attended to by adequately trained and equipped personnel with gender sensitivity and expertise and are consulted during each step of the process;

(d) That women human rights defenders are able to avoid situations of violence, including by preventing the occurrence or recurrence of such violence in the exercise of their important and legitimate role in accordance with the present resolution;

22. *Also urges* States to promote and support projects to improve and further develop the documentation and monitoring of cases of violations against women human rights defenders, and encourages the provision of adequate support and resources for those working to protect women human rights defenders, such as government agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society, including national and international non-governmental organizations;

23. *Encourages* national human rights institutions to support the documentation of violations against women human rights defenders and to integrate a gender dimension into the planning and implementation of all programmes and other interventions related to human rights defenders, including through consultations with the relevant stakeholders;

24. *Encourages* regional protection mechanisms, where they exist, to promote projects to improve and further develop the documentation of cases of violations against women human rights defenders and to ensure that programmes for the security and protection of human rights defenders integrate a gender perspective and address the specific risks and security needs of women human rights defenders;

25. *Encourages* United Nations bodies, agencies and other entities, within their respective mandates and in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to address the situation of human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders, in their work and to contribute to the effective implementation of the Declaration;

26. *Requests* all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations, within their mandates, to provide all possible assistance and support to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate, including in the context of country visits and through suggestions on ways and means of ensuring the protection of women human rights defenders;

27. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to report annually on her activities to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, in accordance with her mandate;

28. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter.
