

4. *Requests* the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, as the United Nations agency entrusted with special responsibility for meeting emergency needs of children in many parts of the world :

(a) To assist in the conduct of national campaigns for the benefit of the International Children's Emergency Fund, with a view to providing international co-ordination of voluntary governmental and non-governmental appeals for the benefit of children;

(b) To report concerning the appeals to the ninth session of the Economic and Social Council and to the fourth regular session of the General Assembly.

*Hundred and seventy-seventh plenary meeting,
8 December 1948.*

216 (III). Advisory social welfare services

The General Assembly,

Having considered resolution 155 (VII) of the Economic and Social Council of 13 August 1948 on advisory social welfare services,

Approves the provisions of that resolution.

*Hundred and seventy-seventh plenary meeting,
8 December 1948.*

217 (III). International Bill of Human Rights

A

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

PREAMBLE

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

4. *Invite* le Fonds international de secours à l'enfance de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en sa qualité d'institution de l'Organisation des Nations Unies spécialement chargée de pourvoir aux pressants besoins des enfants dans de nombreuses parties du monde;

a) A contribuer à l'organisation de campagnes nationales en faveur du Fonds international de secours à l'enfance, afin d'assurer la coordination internationale des appels gouvernementaux et non gouvernementaux bénévoles en faveur de l'enfance;

b) A faire rapport sur les résultats des appels à la neuvième session du Conseil économique et social ainsi qu'à la quatrième session ordinaire de l'Assemblée générale.

*Cent-soixante-dix-septième séance plénière,
le 8 décembre 1948.*

216 (III). Fonctions consultatives en matière de service social

L'Assemblée générale.

Ayant examiné la résolution 155 (VII) du Conseil économique et social, en date du 13 août 1948, relative aux fonctions consultatives en matière de service social,

Approuve les dispositions de ladite résolution.

*Cent-soixante-dix-septième séance plénière,
le 8 décembre 1948.*

217 (III). Charte internationale des droits de l'homme

A

DÉCLARATION UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

PRÉAMBULE

Considérant que la reconnaissance de la dignité inhérente à tous les membres de la famille humaine et de leurs droits égaux et inaliénables constitue le fondement de la liberté, de la justice et de la paix dans le monde,

Considérant que la méconnaissance et le mépris des droits de l'homme ont conduit à des actes de barbarie qui révoltent la conscience de l'humanité et que l'avènement d'un monde où les êtres humains seront libres de parler et de croire, libérés de la terreur et de la misère, a été proclamé comme la plus haute aspiration de l'homme,

Considérant qu'il est essentiel que les droits de l'homme soient protégés par un régime de droit pour que l'homme ne soit pas contraint, en suprême recours, à la révolte contre la tyrannie et l'oppression,

Considérant qu'il est essentiel d'encourager le développement de relations amicales entre nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society, keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

ARTICLE 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

ARTICLE 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, 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.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

ARTICLE 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and the security of person.

Considérant que dans la Charte les peuples des Nations Unies ont proclamé à nouveau leur foi dans les droits fondamentaux de l'homme, dans la dignité et la valeur de la personne humaine, dans l'égalité des droits des hommes et des femmes, et qu'ils se sont déclarés résolus à favoriser le progrès social et à instaurer de meilleures conditions de vie dans une liberté plus grande,

Considérant que les États Membres se sont engagés à assurer, en coopération avec l'Organisation des Nations Unies, le respect universel et effectif des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales,

Considérant qu'une conception commune de ces droits et libertés est de la plus haute importance pour remplir pleinement cet engagement,

L'Assemblée générale

Proclame la présente Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme comme l'idéal commun à atteindre par tous les peuples et toutes les nations afin que tous les individus et tous les organes de la société, ayant cette Déclaration constamment à l'esprit, s'efforcent, par l'enseignement et l'éducation, de développer le respect de ces droits et libertés et d'en assurer, par des mesures progressives d'ordre national et international, la reconnaissance et l'application universelles et effectives, tant parmi les populations des États Membres eux-mêmes que parmi celles des territoires placés sous leur juridiction.

ARTICLE PREMIER

Tous les êtres humains naissent libres et égaux en dignité et en droits. Ils sont doués de raison et de conscience et doivent agir les uns envers les autres dans un esprit de fraternité.

ARTICLE 2

Chacun peut se prévaloir de tous les droits et de toutes les libertés proclamés dans la présente Déclaration, sans distinction aucune, notamment de race, de couleur, de sexe, de langue, de religion, d'opinion politique ou de toute autre opinion, d'origine nationale ou sociale, de fortune, de naissance ou de toute autre situation.

De plus, il ne sera fait aucune distinction fondée sur le statut politique, juridique ou international du pays ou du territoire dont une personne est ressortissante, que ce pays ou territoire soit indépendant, sous tutelle, non autonome ou soumis à une limitation quelconque de souveraineté.

ARTICLE 3

Tout individu a droit à la vie, à la liberté et à la sûreté de sa personne.

ARTICLE 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

ARTICLE 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

ARTICLE 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

ARTICLE 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

ARTICLE 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

ARTICLE 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

ARTICLE 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

ARTICLE 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

ARTICLE 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the pro-

ARTICLE 4

Nul ne sera tenu en esclavage ni en servitude; l'esclavage et la traite des esclaves sont interdits sous toutes leurs formes.

ARTICLE 5

Nul ne sera soumis à la torture, ni à des peines ou traitements cruels, inhumains ou dégradants.

ARTICLE 6

Chacun a le droit à la reconnaissance en tous lieux de sa personnalité juridique.

ARTICLE 7

Tous sont égaux devant la loi et ont droit sans distinction à une égale protection de la loi. Tous ont droit à une protection égale contre toute discrimination qui violerait la présente Déclaration et contre toute provocation à une telle discrimination.

ARTICLE 8

Toute personne a droit à un recours effectif devant les juridictions nationales compétentes contre les actes violant les droits fondamentaux qui lui sont reconnus par la constitution ou par la loi.

ARTICLE 9

Nul ne peut être arbitrairement arrêté, détenu ni exilé.

ARTICLE 10

Toute personne a droit, en pleine égalité, à ce que sa cause soit entendue équitablement et publiquement par un tribunal indépendant et impartial, qui décidera, soit de ses droits et obligations, soit du bien fondé de toute accusation en matière pénale dirigée contre elle.

ARTICLE 11

1. Toute personne accusée d'un acte délictueux est présumée innocente jusqu'à ce que sa culpabilité ait été légalement établie au cours d'un procès public où toutes les garanties nécessaires à sa défense lui auront été assurées.

2. Nul ne sera condamné pour des actions ou omissions qui, au moment où elles ont été commises, ne constituaient pas un acte délictueux d'après le droit national ou international. De même, il ne sera infligé aucune peine plus forte que celle qui était applicable au moment où l'acte délictueux a été commis.

ARTICLE 12

Nul ne sera l'objet d'immixtions arbitraires dans sa vie privée, sa famille, son domicile ou sa correspondance, ni d'atteintes à son honneur et à sa réputation. Toute personne a droit à la

tection of the law against such interference or attacks.

ARTICLE 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

ARTICLE 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.
2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

ARTICLE 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

ARTICLE 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

ARTICLE 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

ARTICLE 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to

protection de la loi contre de telles immixtions ou de telles atteintes.

ARTICLE 13

1. Toute personne a le droit de circuler librement et de choisir sa résidence à l'intérieur d'un État.

2. Toute personne a le droit de quitter tout pays, y compris le sien, et de revenir dans son pays.

ARTICLE 14

1. Devant la persécution, toute personne a le droit de chercher asile et de bénéficier de l'asile en d'autres pays.

2. Ce droit ne peut être invoqué dans le cas de poursuites réellement fondées sur un crime de droit commun ou sur des agissements contraires aux buts et aux principes des Nations Unies.

ARTICLE 15

1. Tout individu a droit à une nationalité.
2. Nul ne peut être arbitrairement privé de sa nationalité, ni du droit de changer de nationalité.

ARTICLE 16

1. A partir de l'âge nubile, l'homme et la femme, sans aucune restriction quant à la race, la nationalité ou la religion, ont le droit de se marier et de fonder une famille. Ils ont des droits égaux au regard du mariage, durant le mariage et lors de sa dissolution.

2. Le mariage ne peut être conclu qu'avec le libre et plein consentement des futurs époux.

3. La famille est l'élément naturel et fondamental de la société et a droit à la protection de la société et de l'État.

ARTICLE 17

1. Toute personne, aussi bien seule qu'en collectivité, a droit à la propriété.

2. Nul ne peut être arbitrairement privé de sa propriété.

ARTICLE 18

Toute personne a droit à la liberté de pensée, de conscience et de religion; ce droit implique la liberté de changer de religion ou de conviction ainsi que la liberté de manifester sa religion ou sa conviction, seule ou en commun, tant en public qu'en privé, par l'enseignement, les pratiques, le culte et l'accomplissement des rites.

ARTICLE 19

Tout individu a droit à la liberté d'opinion et d'expression, ce qui implique le droit de ne

hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

ARTICLE 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

ARTICLE 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

ARTICLE 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

ARTICLE 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

ARTICLE 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

pas être inquiété pour ses opinions et celui de chercher, de recevoir et de répandre, sans considérations de frontières, les informations et les idées par quelque moyen d'expression que ce soit.

ARTICLE 20

1. Toute personne a droit à la liberté de réunion et d'association pacifiques.

2. Nul ne peut être obligé de faire partie d'une association.

ARTICLE 21

1. Toute personne a le droit de prendre part à la direction des affaires publiques de son pays, soit directement, soit par l'intermédiaire de représentants librement choisis.

2. Toute personne a droit à accéder, dans des conditions d'égalité, aux fonctions publiques de son pays.

3. La volonté du peuple est le fondement de l'autorité des pouvoirs publics; cette volonté doit s'exprimer par des élections honnêtes qui doivent avoir lieu périodiquement, au suffrage universel égal et au vote secret ou suivant une procédure équivalente assurant la liberté du vote.

ARTICLE 22

Toute personne, en tant que membre de la société, a droit à la sécurité sociale; elle est fondée à obtenir la satisfaction des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels indispensables à sa dignité et au libre développement de sa personnalité, grâce à l'effort national et à la coopération internationale, compte tenu de l'organisation et des ressources de chaque pays.

ARTICLE 23

1. Toute personne a droit au travail, au libre choix de son travail, à des conditions équitables et satisfaisantes de travail et à la protection contre le chômage.

2. Tous ont droit, sans aucune discrimination, à un salaire égal pour un travail égal.

3. Quiconque travaille a droit à une rémunération équitable et satisfaisante lui assurant ainsi qu'à sa famille une existence conforme à la dignité humaine et complétée, s'il y a lieu, par tous autres moyens de protection sociale.

4. Toute personne a le droit de fonder avec d'autres des syndicats et de s'affilier à des syndicats pour la défense de ses intérêts.

ARTICLE 24

Toute personne a droit au repos et aux loisirs et notamment à une limitation raisonnable de la durée du travail et à des congés payés périodiques.

ARTICLE 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

ARTICLE 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

ARTICLE 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

ARTICLE 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

ARTICLE 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

ARTICLE 25

1. Toute personne a droit à un niveau de vie suffisant pour assurer sa santé, son bien-être et ceux de sa famille, notamment pour l'alimentation, l'habillement, le logement, les soins médicaux ainsi que pour les services sociaux nécessaires; elle a droit à la sécurité en cas de chômage, de maladie, d'invalidité, de veuvage, de vieillesse ou dans les autres cas de perte de ses moyens de subsistance par suite de circonstances indépendantes de sa volonté.

2. La maternité et l'enfance ont droit à une aide et à une assistance spéciales. Tous les enfants, qu'ils soient nés dans le mariage ou hors mariage, jouissent de la même protection sociale.

ARTICLE 26

1. Toute personne a droit à l'éducation. L'éducation doit être gratuite, au moins en ce qui concerne l'enseignement élémentaire et fondamental. L'enseignement élémentaire est obligatoire. L'enseignement technique et professionnel doit être généralisé; l'accès aux études supérieures doit être ouvert en pleine égalité à tous en fonction de leur mérite.

2. L'éducation doit viser au plein épanouissement de la personnalité humaine et au renforcement du respect des droits de l'homme et des libertés fondamentales. Elle doit favoriser la compréhension, la tolérance et l'amitié entre toutes les nations et tous les groupes raciaux ou religieux, ainsi que le développement des activités des Nations Unies pour le maintien de la paix.

3. Les parents ont, par priorité, le droit de choisir le genre d'éducation à donner à leurs enfants.

ARTICLE 27

1. Toute personne a le droit de prendre part librement à la vie culturelle de la communauté, de jouir des arts et de participer au progrès scientifique et aux bienfaits qui en résultent.

2. Chacun a droit à la protection des intérêts moraux et matériels découlant de toute production scientifique, littéraire ou artistique dont il est l'auteur.

ARTICLE 28

Toute personne a droit à ce que règne, sur le plan social et sur le plan international, un ordre tel que les droits et libertés énoncés dans la présente Déclaration puissent y trouver plein effet.

ARTICLE 29

1. L'individu a des devoirs envers la communauté dans laquelle seule le libre et plein développement de sa personnalité est possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as 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.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

ARTICLE 30

Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

*Hundred and eighty-third plenary meeting,
10 December 1948.*

B

RIGHT OF PETITION

The General Assembly,

Considering that the right of petition is an essential human right, as is recognized in the Constitutions of a great number of countries,

Having considered the draft article on petitions in document A/C.3/306 and the amendments offered thereto by Cuba and France,

Decides not to take any action on this matter at the present session;

Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to give further examination to the problem of petitions when studying the draft covenant on human rights and measures of implementation, in order to enable the General Assembly to consider what further action, if any, should be taken at its next regular session regarding the problem of petitions.

*Hundred and eighty-third plenary meeting,
10 December 1948.*

C

FATE OF MINORITIES

The General Assembly,

Considering that the United Nations cannot remain indifferent to the fate of minorities,

Considering that it is difficult to adopt a uniform solution of this complex and delicate question, which has special aspects in each State in which it arises,

2. Dans l'exercice de ses droits et dans la jouissance de ses libertés, chacun n'est soumis qu'aux limitations établies par la loi exclusivement en vue d'assurer la reconnaissance et le respect des droits et libertés d'autrui et afin de satisfaire aux justes exigences de la morale, de l'ordre public et du bien-être général dans une société démocratique.

3. Ces droits et libertés ne pourront, en aucun cas, s'exercer contrairement aux buts et aux principes des Nations Unies.

ARTICLE 30

Aucune disposition de la présente Déclaration ne peut être interprétée comme impliquant pour un État, un groupement ou un individu un droit quelconque de se livrer à une activité ou d'accomplir un acte visant à la destruction des droits et libertés qui y sont énoncés.

*Cent-quatre-vingt-troisième séance plénière,
le 10 décembre 1948.*

B

DROIT DE PÉTITION

L'Assemblée générale,

Considérant que le droit de pétition est un des droits essentiels de l'homme, comme le reconnaissent les constitutions de nombreux pays,

Ayant examiné le projet d'article relatif aux pétitions qui figure dans le document A/C.3/306 et les amendements à cet article déposés par Cuba et la France,

Décide de ne prendre aucune mesure à ce sujet au cours de la présente session;

Prie le Conseil économique et social d'inviter la Commission des droits de l'homme à procéder à un nouvel examen du problème des pétitions lorsqu'elle examinera le projet de pacte relatif aux droits de l'homme et aux mesures de mise en œuvre, afin que l'Assemblée générale puisse, au cours de sa prochaine session ordinaire, examiner quelles mesures doivent être prises, s'il y a lieu d'en prendre, en ce qui concerne le problème des pétitions.

*Cent-quatre-vingt-troisième séance plénière,
le 10 décembre 1948.*

C

SORT DES MINORITÉS

L'Assemblée générale,

Considérant que les Nations Unies ne peuvent pas demeurer indifférentes au sort des minorités,

Considérant qu'il est difficile d'adopter une solution uniforme de cette question complexe et délicate qui revêt des aspects particuliers dans chaque État où elle se pose,

Considering the universal character of the Declaration of Human Rights,

Decides not to deal in a specific provision with the question of minorities in the text of this Declaration;

Refers to the Economic and Social Council the texts submitted by the delegations of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia and Denmark on this subject contained in document A/C.3/307/Rev. 2, and requests the Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities to make a thorough study of the problem of minorities, in order that the United Nations may be able to take effective measures for the protection of racial, national, religious or linguistic minorities.

*Hundred and eighty-third plenary meeting,
16 December 1948.*

D

PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN TO THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The General Assembly,

Considering that the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an historic act, destined to consolidate world peace through the contribution of the United Nations towards the liberation of individuals from the unjustified oppression and constraint to which they are too often subjected,

Considering that the text of the Declaration should be disseminated among all peoples throughout the world,

1. *Recommends* Governments of Member States to show their adherence to Article 56 of the Charter by using every means within their power solemnly to publicize the text of the Declaration and to cause it to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to have this Declaration widely disseminated and, to that end, to publish and distribute texts, not only in the official languages, but also, using every means at his disposal, in all languages possible;

3. *Invites* the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations of the world to do their utmost to bring this Declaration to the attention of their members.

*Hundred and eighty-third plenary meeting,
16 December 1948.*

Considérant le caractère universel de la Déclaration des droits de l'homme,

Décide de ne pas traiter par une disposition spécifique dans le corps de cette Déclaration la question des minorités;

Renvoie au Conseil économique et social les textes soumis par les délégations de l'Union des Républiques socialistes soviétiques, de la Yougoslavie et du Danemark sur cette question dans le document A/C.3/307/Rev. 2, et prie le Conseil d'inviter la Commission des droits de l'homme et la Sous-Commission de la lutte contre les mesures discriminatoires et de la protection des minorités à procéder à un examen approfondi du problème des minorités, afin que l'Organisation des Nations Unies puisse adopter des mesures efficaces de protection des minorités raciales, nationales, religieuses et linguistiques.

*Cent-quatre-vingt-troisième séance plénière,
le 10 décembre 1948.*

D

PUBLICITÉ A DONNER À LA DÉCLARATION UNIVERSELLE DES DROITS DE L'HOMME

L'Assemblée générale,

Considérant que le vote de la Déclaration universelle des droits de l'homme est un acte historique, destiné à affermir la paix mondiale en faisant contribuer l'Organisation des Nations Unies à libérer l'individu de l'oppression et des contraintes illégitimes dont il est trop souvent victime,

Considérant que le texte de la Déclaration doit avoir une diffusion de caractère vraiment populaire et universel,

1. *Recommande* aux Gouvernements des États Membres de manifester leur fidélité à l'Article 56 de la Charte, en ne négligeant aucun des moyens en leur pouvoir pour publier solennellement le texte de la Déclaration et, ensuite, pour faire en sorte qu'il soit distribué, affiché, lu et commenté principalement dans les écoles et autres établissements d'enseignement, sans distinction fondée sur le statut politique des pays ou des territoires;

2. *Prie* le Secrétaire général de donner à cette Déclaration une très large diffusion et, à ces fins, de publier et faire distribuer les textes non seulement dans les langues officielles, mais encore, dans la mesure de ses moyens, dans toutes les langues possibles;

3. *Invite* les institutions spécialisées et les organisations non gouvernementales du monde à bien vouloir faire leur possible pour porter cette Déclaration à la connaissance de leurs membres.

*Cent-quatre-vingt-troisième séance plénière,
le 10 décembre 1948.*

F

PREPARATION OF A DRAFT COVENANT ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND DRAFT MEASURES
OF IMPLEMENTATION

The General Assembly,

Considering that the plan of work of the Commission on Human Rights provides for an International Bill of Human Rights, to include a Declaration, a Covenant on Human Rights and measures of implementation,

Requests the Economic and Social Council to ask the Commission on Human Rights to continue to give priority in its work to the preparation of a draft Covenant on Human Rights and draft measures of implementation.

*Hundred and eighty-third plenary meeting,
10 December 1948.*

E

PREPARATION D'UN PROJET DE PACTE
RELATIF AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME ET
DE MESURES DE MISE EN ŒUVRE

L'Assemblée générale,

Considérant que le plan de travail de la Commission des droits de l'homme prévoit l'élaboration d'une charte internationale des droits de l'homme, qui devra comprendre une Déclaration, un Pacte relatif aux droits de l'homme et des mesures de mise en œuvre;

Invite le Conseil économique et social à demander à la Commission des droits de l'homme de continuer à donner la priorité, dans son plan de travail, à la préparation d'un projet de pacte relatif aux droits de l'homme et à l'élaboration des mesures de mise en œuvre.

*Cent-quatre-vingt-troisième séance plénière,
le 10 décembre 1948.*



Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 28 (b)

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, persons with disabilities and the family**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 16 December 2021***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/76/454, para. 51)]***76/137. Policies and programmes involving youth***The General Assembly,*

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶ and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁷ and emphasizing the responsibilities of all States to respect, promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including young people,

Recalling further the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,⁸

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions [50/81](#) of 14 December 1995 and [62/126](#) of 18 December 2007,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁸ Resolution [61/295](#), annex.



Recalling also its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which, for the first time, the General Assembly recognized children and youth as agents of change, and recognizing that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated, indivisible and global in nature, and therefore that all of them apply to youth,

Reiterating the commitments of Heads of State and Government in the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,⁹ in particular those related to listening to and working with youth, as well as to placing women and girls at the centre,

Recalling that youth development is not only critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, but that it is also recognized in other development frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹⁰ the Istanbul Declaration¹¹ and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,¹² the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,¹³ the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants,¹⁴ the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)¹⁵ and the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹⁶ and all relevant international instruments or commitments related to migrants and refugees,

Recalling also that 2021 marks the tenth anniversary of the Economic and Social Council youth forum, and acknowledging the important contributions made by the youth forum to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its decade of action, and that it serves as an important platform for the effective participation and substantive contributions of young people to share their vision with decision makers and representatives of Governments and civil society,

Acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, in 1998, and in this context welcoming the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth 2019 and Youth Forum Lisboa+21, held on 22 and 23 June 2019, and noting the Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes,¹⁷

Welcoming the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her work in addressing the needs of and placing young people as a cross-cutting priority of the United Nations, ensuring that their perspectives are reflected across the United Nations work, as well as, inter alia, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments and their youth delegates, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening young people within and outside the United Nations system,

⁹ Resolution 75/1.

¹⁰ Resolution 69/313, annex.

¹¹ *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011 (A/CONF.219/7)*, chap. I.

¹² *Ibid.*, chap. II.

¹³ Resolution 69/15, annex.

¹⁴ Resolution 71/1.

¹⁵ Resolution 71/256, annex.

¹⁶ Resolution 72/1.

¹⁷ A/73/949, annex.

Noting the progress made on the implementation of Youth 2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, launched by the Secretary-General, in September 2018, to address the needs of youth and to fulfil their potential as agents of change, as well as the Generation Unlimited global partnership, which is aimed at ensuring that, by 2030, every young person has the opportunity for education, learning, training or employment,

Recalling that Member States have an important role in promoting and protecting human rights and in meeting the needs and aspirations of all young people, including those in vulnerable situations and those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and recognizing that the ways in which they are able to fulfil their potential as agents of change will influence social, environmental and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of young people in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and reaffirming the commitment to the full implementation of the youth and peace and security agenda,

Underlining the important role that youth can play in the promotion of sustainable development, human rights and the importance of the full, effective, constructive and inclusive participation of youth in decision-making,

Recognizing the important role of young people in accelerating climate action, and that tackling climate change requires coordinated action between Governments and other stakeholders, including youth and youth-led organizations, and recognizing also that the young generation will be most affected by today's decision-making, which should therefore consider the impact on future generations, ensure long-term sustainability, and foster intergenerational equity,

Taking note of the convening of the "Youth4Climate: Driving Ambition" event, held from 28 to 30 September 2021, in Milan, Italy, in preparation for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with the aim of contributing to the increase of youth-led climate ambition and implementing concrete actions to achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement,¹⁸ and emphasizing the importance of the participation of young people in the Conferences of the Parties,

Reaffirming that fulfilling the human rights, needs and well-being of youth, including adolescents and young women, is critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as other United Nations conferences and summits, including the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,¹⁹ the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development²⁰ and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,²¹ and their review conferences,

Welcoming the effective participation of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, and taking note that 2021 marks the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 36/17 of 9 November 1981, in which the General Assembly requested Governments to consider

¹⁸ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

¹⁹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

²⁰ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

²¹ 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.

the inclusion of youth representatives in their national delegations to the General Assembly and to other United Nations meetings,

Reaffirming the importance of involving youth, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels in all matters of concern to them, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that a youthful population creates significant opportunities for development, and underlining in this regard the importance of the creation by Member States of appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend driven by large proportions of young people moving into the labour force, while adopting an inclusive and sustainable approach to development planning and implementation, with full respect for human rights,

Reaffirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, and emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including quality education and health, and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that, before the beginning of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, 67.2 million youth were unemployed and 118.3 million youth were living with their families in poverty, including more than 51 million in extreme poverty, and with the pandemic these numbers are likely to have increased,

Emphasizing the need to empower youth, including young women and girls, in order to achieve sustainable development, and stressing in this regard the commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to eradicate poverty and substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment, and in this regard takes note of the call for action of the International Labour Organization on the youth employment crisis and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth,

Emphasizing also the need to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, and to ensure, by 2030, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy,

Expressing concern about the spread of disinformation and misinformation, including among young people, particularly on social media platforms, which can be designed and implemented so as to mislead, to spread racism, xenophobia, negative stereotyping and stigmatization, to violate and abuse human rights, including the right to privacy, to impede freedom of expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, and to incite all forms of violence, hatred, intolerance, discrimination and hostility, and emphasizing the important contribution of journalists, civil society and academia in countering this trend,

Recognizing that, while young people represent almost one quarter of the online population, they often lack job-relevant digital skills and knowledge to ensure their access to the labour market, and that building the digital skills of young people is crucial to boosting their future employability and social inclusion, by providing them, including young women and girls, access to educational resources online and necessary digital tools,

Recognizing also that the use of technology, specifically digital platforms, can mitigate the loss of education and learning opportunities caused by school closures, while expressing concern that the poorest and most vulnerable children and young

people are least likely to live in a suitable home-learning environment with an adequate Internet connection and learning support,

Recognizing further that many countries are making progress towards achieving universal health coverage by 2030 and that the good health and well-being of young people are closely intertwined with their capacity to complete their education and seize employment opportunities,

Noting with concern that globally HIV continues to disproportionately impact young people, particularly young women, and that young people's knowledge and awareness of HIV and AIDS and access to and use of essential HIV-related services, including HIV testing and pre-exposure prophylaxis, remain unacceptably low, that condom use is on the decline and that young people, who represent 16 per cent of the global population, account for 28 per cent of new HIV infections, while stressing the need to create an environment that does not allow the dissemination of scientifically inaccurate information about HIV, including HIV denialism,

Recognizing that young women between the ages of 15 and 24 are most vulnerable to HIV, experiencing infection rates two or three times as high as those of young men, depending on the region, as well as many health-related threats and challenges,

Recognizing also that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately impact young people, including young women and girls, and those who are in vulnerable situations, and that responses to the COVID-19 pandemic need to take into account multiple and intersecting forms of violence, discrimination, stigmatization, exclusion and inequalities,

Recognizing further that the multidimensional impacts of COVID-19 have placed unprecedented pressures on youth, and that, in order to achieve an equitable recovery from the pandemic, and to build back better, action is urgently needed to coordinate multisectoral investments to improve youth health and nutrition, mental health and well-being, education, information and communications technologies, safety and resilience and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting with concern that incidences of discrimination and violence have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and that young women and girls have been disproportionately disadvantaged, resulting in a surge in young women and girls dropping out of school, adolescent pregnancies and unintended pregnancies, child, early and forced marriage, limited access to health-care services and a reduction in progress towards ending female genital mutilation,

Noting with concern also that, owing to school closures, the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the digital divide, both between and within countries, including the gender digital divide and vast disparities in the availability of learning materials, including access to the Internet, and communication devices, and that even though much focus has turned to remote learning platforms, many public schools, especially in developing countries, are not set up to use them or do not have the technology and equipment to provide online teaching, which leads to limited or lack of education for many young people, especially young women and girls,

Noting the development of guiding principles and tools, for consideration by States, on the human rights obligations of States to provide public education,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;²²

²² A/76/210.

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth,²³ and emphasizes that all 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing and the role that the Commission for Social Development plays in supporting States in its implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of State and Government in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development²⁴ to leave no one behind, including youth, and the importance of implementing, following up on and reviewing strategies that adequately address youth issues and give all young people, as well as youth and youth-led organizations, real opportunities for full, effective, constructive and sustainable participation in society, including in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda;

4. *Recognizes* that 49 per cent of the world's population is under 30 and only 2.6 per cent of members of parliament belong to this age group, encourages the increase of youth representation in national and local legislatures;

5. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop integrated, holistic, inclusive and effective youth policies and programmes, as well as coherent cross-sectoral efforts, based on the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

6. *Urges* Member States to protect, promote and fulfil the realization and full enjoyment by all young people of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments, in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, while ensuring that youth policies and programmes and their planning, design, implementation, monitoring and review include the views, perspectives and priorities of youth and are adequately resourced, transparent and accountable;

7. *Also urges* Member States to take measures to combat discrimination, neglect, abuse and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, and to address issues relating to barriers to social integration and adequate participation, bearing in mind that the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by young people empowers them to contribute as active members of society to the political, civil, economic, social, and cultural development of their countries;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General²⁵ for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women, marginalized groups and young people belonging to vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations, especially those affected by armed conflict, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

9. *Stresses* the need to strengthen and support the capacity of national statistical offices to design, collect and analyse data disaggregated by sex and age so

²³ Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

²⁴ Resolution 70/1.

²⁵ E/CN.5/2013/8.

as to contribute effectively to follow-up, reporting and accountability for the achievement of the youth dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

10. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against all young people, including those based, inter alia, on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and to foster social inclusion and integration, including for young persons with disabilities, young migrants, young people in rural and remote areas and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

11. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular in the light of their consequence on children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions and promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth;

12. *Also reiterates* the need for more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth, while taking note of young people's diverse situations and conditions, backed by increased international support and, inter alia, by providing youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities and to realize the opportunity of the demographic dividend offered by young people, and calls for the increased participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations, other relevant stakeholders and civil society organizations in the development of such national development strategies, policies and plans;

13. *Emphasizes* the role of quality health education and literacy in promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and improving health outcomes over the life course, and in this regard encourages its promotion among young people by Member States, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes, both in and out of school, and through public campaigns, and to increase the access of youth to available, accessible, affordable, quality, safe, effective, sustainable and appropriate youth-friendly health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, social services, safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, including menstrual health, as well as by paying special attention to and raising awareness regarding sports and physical activity, nutrition, including eating disorders and obesity, the promotion and protection of health, including mental health and well-being, and equitable access to education and participation, and support and care for youth with disabilities, the prevention of interpersonal violence, the prevention, control and effects of communicable and non-communicable diseases, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and recognizes the need to develop safe, affordable and youth-friendly counselling and prevention of psychoactive substance use and addictive behaviours;

14. *Also emphasizes* the need to implement measures to promote and improve the mental health and well-being of young people, including by adopting and investing in mental health policies which respect the human rights of young people with mental health conditions and psychosocial disabilities, recognizing and addressing risk factors for mental health conditions, scaling up comprehensive and integrated services, both in person and in digital contexts, for the prevention of mental health conditions, including suicide prevention, as well as providing psychosocial support, including resilience training, while raising awareness of mental health issues,

the impact of misuse of digital technology on young people's mental health and well-being and tackling stigma, discrimination and social exclusion, promoting well-being, strengthening the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, addressing social determinants of health and fully respecting their human rights;

15. *Further emphasizes* that the respect for all human rights and addressing the specific needs of young people in the response to HIV and AIDS is a key element in efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and urges Member States to develop accessible, available and affordable and youth friendly health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health-care services, as well as information and education programmes, including those related to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and AIDS, delivered free from all forms of stigma and discrimination, and to strengthen efforts in this regard, including by ensuring the active involvement of young people living with or affected by HIV in the response;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers;

17. *Reiterates* the need to fulfil the right to education of all girls and young women, to economically empower women by providing them with job skills, employment opportunities, including access to decent work, financial and digital literacy and access to financial services, to scale up social protection interventions for all girls and young women, and to engage men and boys as agents of change in intensified efforts to combat all forms of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence and harassment, both in person and in digital contexts, and to transform negative social norms and gender stereotypes;

18. *Emphasizes* the right to education, recognizes that investment in universal, quality and inclusive education and training is the most important policy investment that States can make to ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth, and reiterates that access to inclusive, equitable and quality formal and non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to develop the relevant skills, including complementary soft skills, and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people, including pregnant adolescents and young mothers, have access to such services and opportunities, which will allow them to be drivers of sustainable development;

19. *Urges* Member States to intensify efforts to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work, and improving synergies between the education and employment sectors to increase

the prospects for integrating youth into the sustainable labour market, and through increased innovation and entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in quality education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

20. *Recognizes* the importance of a deep connection between youth and their respective cultural heritage and background as a tool for the establishment of positive relations based on the respect for cultural diversity, leading to peaceful integration also through artistic, cultural and sports initiatives;

21. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide and promote innovation among youth by ensuring that information and communications technologies are fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, and in support of the concept of lifelong learning;

22. *Encourages* Member States to take the necessary and appropriate measures, with respect for human rights, to address disinformation and advocacy of hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence on the Internet, particularly on digital platforms used for educational purposes, and stresses the importance of educating young learners of the digital age on the responsible use of technologies and raising their awareness around harmful use of sensitive contents, to promote safety on the Internet so that it can continue to be a vibrant force that generates economic, social and cultural development;

23. *Urges* Member States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, including harmful practices, and the stereotypical roles of men and women that hinder social and personal development, by implementing the commitments to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, including their sexual and reproductive behaviour;

24. *Also urges* Member States to take comprehensive legal and policy measures in order to eliminate all forms of violence against girls and young women, including sexual harassment, and prevent violence, both in person and in digital contexts, such as bullying, including cyberbullying, address the reported surge of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and reaffirms that States should not invoke any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination and should pursue, by all appropriate means and without delay, a policy of eliminating violence against women, as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;²⁶

25. *Further urges* Member States to mainstream a gender-responsive approach into all development efforts, recognizing that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to improve, ensure and broaden the full, equal and meaningful participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social

²⁶ Resolution 48/104.

and cultural life as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all of their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including by providing access to quality education at all levels, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work and strengthening their economic independence;

26. *Recognizes* that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities with direct and indirect implications for the human rights and well-being of youth and which could make youth, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, vulnerable to their adverse impacts, including through suffering disproportionately in labour markets in times of crisis created by climate change, calls for the enhanced cooperation of and concerted action by Member States with youth in order to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that the education of youth can play in that respect, and encourages Member States to further promote youth participation in climate action and to consider youth perspectives in decision-making processes on climate change;

27. *Invites* Member States to actively engage civil society, in particular youth organizations, in decision-making processes regarding environmental policy and programming initiatives, aimed at countering climate change, desertification, land deterioration and biodiversity loss, and at strengthening youth involvement, their capacity-building and resilience, in particular those in developing countries, and at ensuring access to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

28. *Recognizes* that the sharing of responsibilities by family members, including on domestic and unpaid care work, creates an enabling family environment for the empowerment of youth, including girls and young women, which contributes to development, that youth make a significant contribution to the welfare of their families and that particular attention must be paid to solutions to youth unemployment in order to generate the human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development;

29. *Also recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard recognizes the importance of opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

30. *Further recognizes* all recent efforts to promote the youth and peace and security agenda, and calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to consider ways to increase the meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict processes and humanitarian action, as well as to take concrete measures to further assist youth in armed conflict situations, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, and to encourage the involvement of youth, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict situations, and recognizes the importance of protecting schools and universities from military use, in contravention of international humanitarian law;

31. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen the efforts aimed at promoting and protecting the right to education and facilitating continuation of education in armed conflict, also by considering endorsing and implementing relevant instruments for the protection of children in armed conflict;

32. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or

post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

33. *Also urges* Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people, including youth in marginalized groups affected or exploited by terrorism;

34. *Further urges* Member States to address legal, administrative, social, economic, digital and cultural barriers that limit young people's participation and representation, while enabling the capacities, resources, information, technology, support, space and skills needed to ensure free, active, independent, full and effective participation of youth, including youth in vulnerable situations;

35. *Calls upon* Member States to develop or maintain, in this regard, preventive measures and remedies for violations and abuses regarding the right to privacy in the digital age that may affect all individuals, including young people, promote digital literacy and technical skills to effectively protect their privacy and take measures to prevent cyberstalking and cyberbullying;

36. *Encourages* Member States to include youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

37. *Calls upon* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters, including, inter alia, with Governments on the United Nations Youth Delegate Programme;

38. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

39. *Acknowledges* the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, requests United Nations entities, within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon United Nations entities and relevant partners to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

40. *Recognizes* the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her task of bringing the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization identified in her workplan, and encourages the Envoy to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media by empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, at the request of

the Member States concerned, and calls upon Member States and United Nations entities to support, as appropriate, the Envoy in her efforts to advance the situation of youth globally;

41. *Decides* to convene a one day high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly, at the level of Heads of State and Government and with the full and effective participation of youth, during the general debate of the eightieth session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2025, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth, with a view to addressing the challenges still faced by young people in the realization of their full potential and human rights and to strengthening political commitment for reinforced policies and programmes involving youth;

42. *Recommends*, in this regard, that the President of the General Assembly conduct consultations to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;

43. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution, and encourages Member States to report on progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals with regard to the youth agenda and challenges that still remain, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to be prepared in consultation with relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretariat to consult with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

*53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021*

**Seventy-sixth session**

Agenda item 29 (a)

Advancement of women: advancement of women**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 16 December 2021***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/76/455, para. 21)]***76/140. Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas***The General Assembly,*

Recalling its resolutions [56/129](#) of 19 December 2001, [58/146](#) of 22 December 2003, [60/138](#) of 16 December 2005, [62/136](#) of 18 December 2007, [64/140](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/129](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/139](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/132](#) of 17 December 2015, [72/148](#) of 19 December 2017 and [74/126](#) of 18 December 2019,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁶ and other human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the commitment made to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those in rural areas, contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,⁷ the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled “Women

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁷ *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.



2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”⁸ and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples,⁹ and recalling other instruments, as appropriate, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development,¹⁰

Reaffirming further the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,¹¹ and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,¹²

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to ensure that no one is left behind, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial,

Recognizing that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities,

Taking note of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Women’s Economic Empowerment,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session¹³ and its priority theme “Challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”,

Recognizing that progress on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, in particular in rural areas, has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women’s and girls’ capabilities, and growing gaps in equality of opportunity, discriminatory laws, policies, social norms, attitudes, harmful customary and contemporary practices and gender stereotypes,

Expressing its deep concern that discrimination and violence against women and girls, including those in rural areas, continue to occur in all parts of the world and that all forms of violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, that women and girls face are impediments to the development of their full potential as equal partners with men and boys in all aspects of life, as well as obstacles to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Expressing its deep concern also that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they account for 70 per cent of the world’s hungry, and that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food insecurity and poverty, in part as a result of gender inequality and discrimination,

Expressing concern that many rural women continue to be economically and socially disadvantaged because of their limited access to economic resources and opportunities and their limited access or lack of access to quality education, health-care services, justice, land, sustainable and time- and labour-saving infrastructure and technology, water and sanitation and other resources, as well as to credit, extension services and agricultural inputs, and expressing concern also about their exclusion

⁸ Resolution [S-23/2](#), annex, and resolution [S-23/3](#), annex.

⁹ Resolution [69/2](#).

¹⁰ Resolution [41/128](#), annex.

¹¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

¹² Resolution [69/313](#), annex.

¹³ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 7 (E/2018/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

from planning and decision-making and their disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work,

Emphasizing that rural women's poverty is directly related to the absence of economic opportunities and autonomy and the lack of access to economic and productive resources, quality education and support services and of women's participation in the decision-making process, and recognizing that rural women's poverty and lack of empowerment as well as their exclusion from social and economic policies can place them at increased risk of violence that can impede their social and economic development, as well as the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recognizing that, despite gains in providing access to quality education, rural girls are still more likely than rural boys to remain excluded from education and that among the gender-specific barriers to girls' equal enjoyment of their right to education are the feminization of poverty, child labour undertaken by girls, child, early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation, early and repeat pregnancies, all forms of violence, including gender-based violence, abuse and harassment on the way to and from and at school, in their technology-mediated environment, the lack of safe and adequate sanitation facilities, including for menstrual hygiene management, the disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work performed by girls and gender stereotypes and negative social norms that lead families and communities to place less value on the education of girls than that of boys and may influence the decision of parents to allow girls to attend school,

Recognizing also the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security¹⁴ and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,¹⁵ endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, which embrace gender equality as one of the main guiding principles of implementation in order to help to address the ongoing disparities with regard to access to and control of land and other natural resources,

Deeply concerned that climate change poses a challenge to poverty eradication and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, threatens food security and increases the risks of famine and adversely impacts the health and well-being of rural women and their families, and that rural women and girls, especially in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by the impacts of desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms, natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification and often have limited capacities to adapt to climate change,

Recognizing that women and girls in rural areas may be particularly vulnerable to violence because of multidimensional poverty and lack of access to social care and protection services and, as applicable, employment opportunities, as well as negative social norms,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁶

2. *Urges* Member States, in collaboration with the organizations of the United Nations system and civil society, as appropriate, to continue their efforts to implement the outcome of and to ensure an integrated and coordinated follow-up to the relevant United Nations conferences and summits, including their reviews, and to

¹⁴ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

¹⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

¹⁶ [A/76/241](#).

attach greater importance to the improvement of the situation of rural women and girls in their national, regional and global development strategies by, inter alia:

(a) Creating an enabling environment for improving their situation and ensuring systematic attention to their needs, priorities and contributions, as well as gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through enhanced cooperation and a gender perspective, and the full and equal participation of all women in the development, implementation and follow-up of macroeconomic policies, including development policies and programmes and poverty eradication strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Encouraging Member States to consider adopting and pursuing national financial inclusion strategies and gender-responsive strategies to end the structural barriers to women's equal access to economic resources and to expand peer learning, experience-sharing and capacity-building in rural areas;

(c) Supporting the important role of civil society in promoting the realization and fulfilment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all women, including rural women;

(d) Taking steps in the design, implementation and pursuit of fiscal policies and gender-responsive budgeting to promote gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

(e) Pursuing the political and socioeconomic empowerment of rural women and supporting their full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels, including through affirmative action, where appropriate, including by promoting and protecting the right to vote and to be elected and the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association, and through support for women's and farmers' organizations in which subsistence and smallholder women farmers are members, labour unions, cooperatives or other associations and civil society groups promoting rural women's rights;

(f) Promoting consultation with and the participation of rural women and, as appropriate, girls, including those who are indigenous, those with disabilities and older women, through their organizations and networks, in the design, development and implementation of and follow-up to programmes and strategies for gender equality, the empowerment of women and rural development;

(g) Ensuring that the perspectives of rural women and girls are taken into account and that rural women fully, meaningfully and equally participate in the design, implementation, follow-up and evaluation of policies and activities related to conflict prevention, the mitigation of post-conflict situations, peace mediation, the impacts of climate change and emergencies, including natural disasters, humanitarian assistance, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and taking appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against rural women and girls in this regard;

(h) Integrating a gender perspective into the design, implementation and evaluation of and follow-up to development policies, plans and programmes, including budget policies, where lacking, ensuring coordination between line ministries, gender policymakers, gender machineries and other relevant government organizations and institutions with gender expertise, and paying increased attention to the needs of rural women and girls to ensure that they benefit from policies and programmes adopted in all spheres and that the disproportionate number of rural women living in poverty is reduced;

(i) Mainstreaming a gender perspective in decision-making processes and the governance of natural resources, leveraging the participation and influence of women in managing the sustainable use of natural resources, and enhancing the capacities of Governments, civil society and development partners to better understand and address gender issues in the management and governance of natural resources;

(j) Implementing effective, high-impact, quality-assured, people-centred, gender- and disability-responsive and evidence-based interventions to meet the health needs of rural women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations, throughout their life course;

(k) Strengthening measures, including resource generation, to improve women's health, including maternal health, by addressing the specific health, nutrition and basic needs of rural women and taking concrete measures to enhance and provide access to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health for women of all ages in rural areas, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible primary health care and support services, including prenatal and postnatal health care, emergency obstetric care, family planning, information and education, increasing knowledge, awareness and support for the elimination of harmful practices and the prevention, treatment and care of sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹⁷ the Beijing Platform for Action¹⁸ and the outcome documents of their review conferences;

(l) Strengthening the prevention, treatment and care of infections, such as HIV, in rural areas, by providing accessible information, social care services and infrastructure;

(m) Taking appropriate measures to ensure that women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, as well as contributions to on-farm and off-farm production, is recognized, including by fully recognizing and valuing unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family, and to promote nationally appropriate policies and initiatives supporting the reconciliation of work and family life and the equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women with a view to reducing and equitably distributing such unpaid work, including through, inter alia, the provision of infrastructure, technology and public services, such as water and sanitation, renewable energy, transport and information and communications technology, as well as addressing the need for accessible, affordable and quality childcare and care facilities in rural areas;

(n) Promoting sustainable, gender-responsive, quality, reliable and resilient infrastructure, including by scaling up investment in health facilities in rural areas and by improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation, including through provisions for menstrual hygiene management, and safe cooking and heating practices to improve the health and nutrition of rural women and girls;

(o) Investing in and strengthening efforts to meet the basic needs of rural women, including needs relating to their food security and nutrition and that of their families, and to promote adequate standards of living for them, as well as decent conditions for work and improved access to local, regional and global markets through

¹⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹⁸ *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, annex II.

improved availability, access to and use of critical rural infrastructure, such as energy and transport, science and technology, local services, capacity-building and human resources development measures and the provision of a safe and reliable water supply and sanitation, nutritional programmes, affordable housing programmes, education and literacy programmes, social support measures and health care, including HIV prevention, treatment, care, including psychosocial aspects, and support services;

(p) Fully engaging men and boys, including community leaders, as strategic partners and allies in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against them, including by working to counteract attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys;

(q) Eliminating all forms of violence against rural women and girls in public and private spaces through multisectoral and coordinated approaches to prevent and respond to violence against rural women and girls, to investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against rural women and girls and end impunity and to provide protection as well as equal access to comprehensive social, health and legal services for all victims and survivors to support their full recovery and reintegration into society, including by providing access to psychosocial support and rehabilitation, and bearing in mind the importance of all women and girls living free from violence, such as gender-related killings, including femicide, and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, as well as of addressing the structural and underlying causes of violence against women and girls through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation, by, inter alia, encouraging awareness-raising activities;

(r) Designing and implementing national policies and legal frameworks that promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by rural women and girls, and creating an environment that does not tolerate violations or abuses of their rights, including domestic violence, sexual violence, gender-based violence and discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination;

(s) Promoting safe public spaces for women and girls in rural areas and improving their security and safety, including in public transportation systems and infrastructure, preventing and eliminating violence and harassment against women on their journey to and from work, and protecting women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and fuel and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation;

(t) Ensuring that the rights of older women in rural areas are taken into account with regard to their equal access to basic social services, appropriate social protection and/or social security measures, equal access to and control of economic resources and their empowerment through access to financial and infrastructure services, with special focus on the provision of support to older women, including indigenous women, who often have access to few resources and are often more vulnerable;

(u) Valuing and supporting the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women in rural areas, in the conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops and biodiversity for present and future generations as an essential contribution to food security and nutrition, recognizing that rural women are disproportionately affected by biodiversity loss and land degradation and should therefore be meaningfully engaged in efforts to address such matters;

(v) Promoting the rights of women and girls with disabilities in rural areas, including by ensuring access on an equal basis to productive employment and decent

work, economic and financial resources and disability-sensitive infrastructure and services, in particular in relation to health and education, as well as by ensuring that their priorities and needs are fully incorporated into policies and programmes, through, inter alia, their participation in decision-making processes;

(w) Developing specific assistance programmes and advisory services to promote economic skills of rural women in banking, modern trading and financial procedures, including financial literacy and consumer protection, and providing microcredit and other financial and business services to a greater number of women in rural areas, in particular female heads of households, for their economic empowerment;

(x) Supporting women entrepreneurs and women smallholder farmers, including those in subsistence farming, by continuing to provide public investment and to encourage private investment in rural women to close the gender gap in agriculture, and facilitating their access to extension and financial services, agricultural inputs and land, water, sanitation and irrigation, markets and innovative technologies;

(y) Mobilizing resources, including at the national level and through official development assistance, for increasing women's access to existing savings and credit schemes, as well as targeted programmes that provide women with capital, knowledge and tools that enhance their economic capacities;

(z) Seeking to ensure and improve equal access for rural women to decent work in agricultural and non-agricultural sectors, supporting and promoting opportunities in small and medium-sized enterprises, sustainable social enterprises and cooperatives and improving working conditions;

(aa) Investing in infrastructure and in time- and labour-saving technologies, including sustainable energy, safe drinking water and sanitation and information and communications technologies, especially in rural areas, benefiting women and girls by reducing their burden of domestic activities, affording the opportunity for girls to attend school and for women to engage in self-employment or to participate in the labour market;

(bb) Taking appropriate measures to raise public awareness among rural women and girls about the risks of trafficking in persons, including the factors that make rural women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and eliminating the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation against them, including sexual exploitation and forced labour;

(cc) Supporting remunerative non-agricultural employment for rural women, including in the informal sector, including measures to improve working conditions, increase access to productive resources, invest in relevant infrastructure, public services and time- and labour-saving technologies, promote rural women's paid employment in the formal economy and address the structural and underlying causes of the difficult conditions faced by rural women;

(dd) Taking steps to build the capacities and skills of rural women and their enterprises and cooperatives and to design or develop and implement procurement policies and measures to enable rural women and their enterprises and cooperatives to benefit from public and private sector procurement processes, recognizing that the promotion of rural women's enterprises and cooperatives can sustainably contribute to the economic empowerment of rural women;

(ee) Promoting programmes and services to enable rural women and men to reconcile their work and family responsibilities and to encourage men throughout their life cycle to share, equally with women and girls, household, childcare and other care responsibilities;

(ff) Developing and adopting strategies to decrease women's and girls' vulnerability to environmental factors, including gender-responsive strategies on mitigation and adaptation to climate change, to support the resilience and adaptive capacities of women and girls to respond to the adverse effects of climate change, through, inter alia, the promotion of their health and well-being, as well as access to sustainable livelihoods, and the provision of adequate resources to ensure women's full participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies and policies related to the impacts of climate change, such as desertification, deforestation, sand and dust storms and natural disasters, persistent drought, extreme weather events, sea level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification and loss of biodiversity, on the lives of rural women and girls, and ensuring the integration of their specific needs into humanitarian responses to natural disasters, into the planning, delivery, implementation and monitoring of disaster risk reduction policies, in particular urban and rural infrastructure and land-use planning and resettlement and relocation planning during the aftermath of natural disasters, and into sustainable natural resources management;

(gg) Building the resilience of rural women and girls, in particular women smallholder farmers, to climate change and environmental degradation (inter alia, deforestation, desertification and the loss of agricultural biodiversity), including by promoting appropriate use of relevant ancestral, indigenous and modern technological practices and knowledge and strengthening access to extension services, information and training;

(hh) Considering the adoption, where appropriate, of national legislation to protect the knowledge, innovations and practices of women in indigenous and local communities relating to traditional medicines, biodiversity and indigenous technologies;

(ii) Addressing the lack of quality, accessible, timely and reliable data disaggregated by sex and age and statistical information on disabilities, to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind, including by intensifying efforts to include women's unpaid work in official statistics, and developing a systematic and comparative research base on rural women that will inform policy and programme decisions;

(jj) Strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other relevant government institutions to collect, analyse and disseminate data, disaggregated by sex and age, and gender statistics on time use, unpaid work, land tenure, energy, water and sanitation, among other things, to support policies and actions to improve the situation of rural women and girls and to monitor and track the implementation of such policies and actions;

(kk) Guaranteeing the universal registration of births, including in rural areas, and ensuring the timely registration of all marriages for individuals living in rural areas, including by removing physical, administrative, procedural and any other barriers that impede access to registration and by providing, where lacking, mechanisms for the registration of customary and religious marriages, bearing in mind the vital importance of birth registration for the realization of the rights of individuals;

(ll) Designing, revising and implementing laws to ensure that rural women are accorded full and equal rights to own and lease land and other property, including through the equal rights to economic and productive resources, access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including banking and microfinancing, and undertaking administrative reforms and all necessary measures to give women the same right as men to credit, capital, finance,

appropriate technologies and vocational training, to improve access to markets and information and to ensure their equal access to justice and legal support;

(mm) Taking appropriate measures to adopt or develop legislation and policies that provide rural women with access to land and support women's cooperatives and agricultural programmes, including for subsistence agriculture, in order to contribute to school feeding programmes as a pull factor to keep children, in particular girl children, in school, noting that school meals and take-home rations attract and retain children in schools and recognizing that school feeding is an incentive to enhance enrolment and reduce absenteeism, especially for girls;

(nn) Supporting a gender-sensitive education system, including through approaches that attract and retain female students and teachers and that consider the specific needs of rural women and girls in order to eliminate gender stereotypes and discriminatory tendencies affecting them, including through community-based dialogue involving women and men and girls and boys;

(oo) Eliminating gender disparities in the realization of the right to education and ensuring full and equal participation in and completion of inclusive quality education (primary, secondary and tertiary education, including vocational and technical education), as well as early childhood education, promoting lifelong learning opportunities for rural women and girls and the elimination of female illiteracy, including through eliminating the discriminatory policies of excluding pregnant and married girls from schools, quality teacher training, recruitment and retention of teachers in rural areas, especially women teachers where they are underrepresented, and building gender-sensitive education facilities that provide a safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment for all and facilitate an effective transition from education or unemployment to decent work;

(pp) Promoting education, training and relevant information programmes for rural and farming women through the use of affordable and appropriate technologies and the mass media, and taking concrete measures to improve rural women's skills, productivity and employment opportunities through technical, agricultural and vocational education and training;

3. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote access to social protection for female-headed rural households;

4. *Encourages* Member States, appropriate United Nations entities and all other relevant stakeholders to promote the full and equal participation of rural women, including indigenous women as well as women farmers, fishers and agricultural workers, in sustainable agricultural and rural development;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, in particular those dealing with issues of development, to address and support the empowerment of rural women and their specific needs in their programmes and strategies;

6. *Stresses* the need to identify the best practices for ensuring that rural women have access to and full and equal participation in the area of information and communications technology, to address the priorities and needs of rural women and girls as active users of information and to ensure their participation in developing and implementing global, regional and national information and communications technology strategies, taking appropriate educational measures to eliminate gender stereotypes regarding women in the field of technology;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider the concluding observations and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights concerning

their reports to those Committees when formulating policies and designing programmes focused on the improvement of the situation of rural women, including those to be developed and implemented in cooperation with relevant international organizations;

8. *Invites* Governments to promote the economic empowerment of rural women, including through entrepreneurship training, and to adopt gender-responsive and climate-sensitive rural development strategies and agricultural production, including budget frameworks and relevant assessment measures, as well as to ensure that the needs and priorities of rural women and girls are systematically addressed and that they can effectively contribute to poverty alleviation, hunger eradication and food security and nutrition;

9. *Invites* Governments, relevant international organizations, the specialized agencies and civil society organizations to continue to observe the International Day of Rural Women annually, on 15 October, as proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution [62/136](#);

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas.

*53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021*

**Seventy-sixth session**

Agenda item 74 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 28 July 2022***[without reference to a Main Committee (A/76/L.75 and A/76/L.75/Add.1)]***76/300. The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment***The General Assembly,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹ and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,² recalling the Declaration on the Right to Development,³ the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration),⁴ the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,⁵ and relevant international human rights treaties, and noting other relevant regional human rights instruments,*Reaffirming also* that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,*Reaffirming further* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030 ensuring that

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).

² A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

³ Resolution 41/128, annex.

⁴ Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972 (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

⁵ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.



no one is left behind, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Recalling States' obligations and commitments under multilateral environmental instruments and agreements, including on climate change, and the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, and its outcome document entitled "The future we want",⁶ which reaffirmed the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 of 8 October 2021, entitled "The human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment",⁷

Recalling further all Human Rights Council resolutions on human rights and the environment, including resolutions 44/7 of 16 July 2020,⁸ 45/17 of 6 October 2020,⁹ 45/30 of 7 October 2020¹⁰ and 46/7 of 23 March 2021,¹¹ and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recognizing that sustainable development, in its three dimensions (social, economic and environmental), and the protection of the environment, including ecosystems, contribute to and promote human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights, for present and future generations,

Recognizing also that, conversely, the impact of climate change, the unsustainable management and use of natural resources, the pollution of air, land and water, the unsound management of chemicals and waste, the resulting loss of biodiversity and the decline in services provided by ecosystems interfere with the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and that environmental damage has negative implications, both direct and indirect, for the effective enjoyment of all human rights,

Reaffirming that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries, including highly indebted poor countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States, as well as the specific challenges faced by middle-income countries, in strengthening their human, institutional and technological capacity,

Recognizing that, while the human rights implications of environmental damage are felt by individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by women and girls and those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, including indigenous peoples, children, older persons and persons with disabilities,

Recognizing also the importance of gender equality, gender-responsive action to address climate change and environmental degradation, the empowerment, leadership, decision-making and full, equal and meaningful participation of women and girls, and the role that women play as managers, leaders and defenders of natural resources and agents of change in safeguarding the environment,

Recognizing further that environmental degradation, climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and unsustainable development constitute some of

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. II.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/76/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

the most pressing and serious threats to the ability of present and future generations to effectively enjoy all human rights,

Recognizing that the exercise of human rights, including the rights to seek, receive and impart information, to participate effectively in the conduct of government and public affairs and to an effective remedy, is vital to the protection of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

Reaffirming that States have the obligation to respect, protect and promote human rights, including in all actions undertaken to address environmental challenges, and to take measures to protect the human rights of all, as recognized in different international instruments, and that additional measures should be taken for those who are particularly vulnerable to environmental degradation, noting the framework principles on human rights and the environment,¹²

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,¹³ which underscore the responsibility of all business enterprises to respect human rights,

Affirming the importance of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for the enjoyment of all human rights,

Taking note of all the reports of the Special Rapporteur (formerly the Independent Expert) on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment,¹⁴

Noting “The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights”, which the Secretary-General presented to the Human Rights Council on 24 February 2020,

Noting also that a vast majority of States have recognized some form of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment through international agreements, their national constitutions, legislation, laws or policies,

1. *Recognizes* the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right;
2. *Notes* that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is related to other rights and existing international law;
3. *Affirms* that the promotion of the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment requires the full implementation of the multilateral environmental agreements under the principles of international environmental law;
4. *Calls upon* States, international organizations, business enterprises and other relevant stakeholders to adopt policies, to enhance international cooperation, strengthen capacity-building and continue to share good practices in order to scale up efforts to ensure a clean, healthy and sustainable environment for all.

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¹² A/HRC/37/59, annex.

¹³ A/HRC/17/31, annex.

¹⁴ A/73/188, A/74/161, A/75/161, A/76/179, A/HRC/22/43, A/HRC/25/53, A/HRC/28/61, A/HRC/31/52, A/HRC/31/53, A/HRC/34/49, A/HRC/37/58, A/HRC/37/59, A/HRC/40/55, A/HRC/43/53, A/HRC/43/54, A/HRC/46/28 and A/HRC/49/53.



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Agenda item 68 (b)

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

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2022

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/77/463/Add.2, para. 87)*]

77/212. 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 Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³

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,

Emphasizing the urgent need to make the right to development a reality for everyone,

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

² See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

³ *Ibid.*



Reaffirming 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,

Stressing the importance of the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993, and that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action⁴ 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,

Welcoming in this regard the upcoming thirtieth anniversary, in 2023, of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and stressing the need to strengthen efforts towards its implementation,

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 2000,⁵

Recognizing the importance of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁶ reaffirming that the Declaration on the Right to Development informed the 2030 Agenda, along with other relevant international instruments, and underlining the fact that the Sustainable Development Goals can be realized only through a credible, effective and universal commitment to the means of implementation by all stakeholders,

Recognizing also the successful conclusion of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, that recognizes that the New Urban Agenda⁷ is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome⁸ and is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁹

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interrelatedness, interdependence and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights, including civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the right to development, and that they must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and its outcome document,¹⁰

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 that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that democracy is based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own

⁴ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

⁵ Resolution 55/2.

⁶ Resolution 70/1.

⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

⁸ Resolution 60/1.

⁹ Resolution 66/288, annex.

¹⁰ Resolution 69/2.

political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives, and in that context noting that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in the entire world,

Recognizing that inequality is a major obstacle to the realization of the right to development within and across countries,

Taking note of the commitment declared by a number of specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all, and in this regard urging all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream the right to development into their objectives, policies, programmes and operational activities, as well as into development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries,

Recalling the outcomes adopted at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Nairobi from 15 to 19 December 2015,

Calling for a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to development,

Recalling the outcome of the fourteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Nairobi from 17 to 22 July 2016, on the theme “From decision to action: moving towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development”,¹¹

Recalling also all its previous resolutions on the subject, the most recent of which was resolution [76/163](#) of 16 December 2021, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions and those of the Commission on Human Rights on the right to development, in particular Commission resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998¹² on the urgent need to make further progress towards the realization of the right to development,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution [35/21](#) of 22 June 2017 on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights,¹³

Recalling the Eighteenth Summit of Heads of State and Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, on 25 and 26 October 2019, 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, including through the elaboration of a convention on the right to development by the relevant machinery, taking into account the recommendations of relevant initiatives,

¹¹ See [TD/519](#), [TD/519/Add.1](#), [TD/519/Add.2](#) and [TD/519/Add.2/Corr.1](#).

¹² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 3 (E/1998/23)*, chap. II, sect. A.

¹³ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

Reiterating its continuing support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development¹⁴ as a development framework for Africa,

Deeply concerned about the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization of the right to development,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries,

Recognizing also that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as progress with regard to the right to development,

Deeply concerned about the uneven access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasizing that the realization of the right to development would enhance the capacities of developing countries to have equal access to vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the pandemic, as well as the need to strengthen the support for national, bilateral, regional and multilateral initiatives that aim to accelerate the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines,

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 one another in ensuring development and eliminating obstacles to development, that the international community should promote effective international cooperation, in particular to revitalize a global partnership for development, 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 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 among the greatest global threats and require the collective commitment of the international community for their eradication, pursuant to Millennium Development Goal 1 and Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, and therefore calling upon the international community, including the Human Rights Council, to contribute towards achieving that goal,

Recognizing also that historical injustices, inter alia, have 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,

Recognizing further that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is one of the critical elements in the promotion and realization of the right to development and is the greatest global challenge and an

¹⁴ [A/57/304](#), annex.

indispensable requirement for sustainable development, which requires a multifaceted and integrated approach, and committed to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Emphasizing that all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Emphasizing also that the right to development is vital for the full realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should be central to its implementation,

Encouraging relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to cooperate with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the fulfilment of his mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development,

1. *Takes note* of the consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights concerning the promotion and realization of the right to development;¹⁵

2. *Acknowledges* the need 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;

3. *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 its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which seeks to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve, and also in this regard to lead the raising of the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level as and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Supports* the realization of the mandate of the Working Group on the Right to Development,¹⁶ and recognizes the need for renewed efforts with a view to overcoming the existing political impasse within the Working Group and to fulfil at the earliest its mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 and the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4 of 30 March 2007;¹⁷

5. *Stresses* the importance of the core principles contained in the conclusions of the Working Group at its third session¹⁸ that are congruent with the purpose of international human rights instruments, such as equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation and international cooperation, as critical to mainstreaming

¹⁵ [A/HRC/51/22](#).

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/63/53/Add.1)*, chap. I.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, *Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹⁸ See [E/CN.4/2002/28/Rev.1](#), sect. VIII.A.

the right to development at the national and international levels, and underlines the importance of the principles of equity and transparency;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Working Group on its twenty-first session;¹⁹

7. *Notes* the presentation to the Working Group at its nineteenth session of the set of standards for the implementation of the right to development prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur,²⁰ which is a useful basis for further deliberations on the implementation and realization of the right to development;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to contribute to the efforts of the Working Group, including, *inter alia*, on the elaboration of a draft legally binding instrument on the right to development on the basis of the draft prepared by the Chair-Rapporteur, as decided by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [42/23](#) of 27 September 2019,²¹ and in this regard notes the report of the Chair-Rapporteur entitled “Draft convention on the right to development”,²² submitted to the Working Group at its twenty-first session;

9. *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 Development 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 Sustainable 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 while 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 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, including in the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through equitable and fair access for all countries, particularly the most vulnerable countries and countries in special situations, to vaccines and medicines as global public goods, sharing the benefits of scientific progress, financial and technological support and debt relief;

(e) To mainstream the right to development into the policies and operational activities of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, 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,

¹⁹ [A/HRC/48/64](#).

²⁰ [A/HRC/WG.2/17/2](#).

²¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

²² [A/HRC/WG.2/21/2](#).

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;

10. *Encourages* the Human Rights Council to continue to consider 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;

11. *Takes note* of the convening, in 2022, of the fifth and sixth sessions the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution [42/23](#), and noting the annual report of the Expert Mechanism;²³

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to development,²⁴ in which the Special Rapporteur examines the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic from the perspective of the right to development at the international level;

13. *Stresses* that South-South cooperation is not a substitute for, but rather a complement to, North-South cooperation and hence should not result in a reduction of North-South cooperation or hamper progress in fulfilling existing official development assistance commitments, and encourages Member States and other relevant stakeholders to incorporate the right to development into the design, financing and implementation of cooperation processes;

14. *Urges* Member States, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to provide the Special Rapporteur on the right to development with all the assistance and support necessary for the fulfilment of his mandate;

15. *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 out in those outcome documents;

16. *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, a lack of development may not be invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights;

17. *Further reaffirms* that development contributes significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and calls upon all countries to realize people-centred development of the people, by the people and for the people;

18. *Calls upon* all States to spare no effort in promoting and protecting all human rights for all, including the right to development, in particular while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and responding to and

²³ [A/HRC/51/36](#).

²⁴ [A/77/174](#).

recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, as it is conducive to the overall enjoyment of human rights;

19. *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;

20. *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 one another to that end;

21. *Also reaffirms* its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

22. *Further reaffirms* its resolution 74/274 of 20 April 2020, in which it recognized the importance of international cooperation and effective multilateralism in helping to ensure that all States have in place effective national protective measures, access to and flow of vital medical supplies, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines, in order to minimize negative effects in all affected States and to avoid relapses of the COVID-19 pandemic;

23. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies that contributes to the realization of the right to development and leaves no one behind;

24. *Expresses concern* about the increasing cases of human rights violations and abuses by some transnational corporations and other business enterprises, underlines the need to ensure that appropriate protection, justice and remedies are provided to the victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from their activities, and underscores the fact that these entities must contribute to the means of implementation for the realization of the right to development;

25. *Reaffirms* the need for an international environment that is conducive to the realization of the right to development;

26. *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, including in the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

27. *Reaffirms* 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, 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, and recognizes that globalization has brought disparities between and within countries and that issues such as trade and trade liberalization, the transfer of technology, infrastructure development and market access should be managed effectively in order to mitigate the challenges of poverty and underdevelopment and to make the right to development a reality for everyone;

28. *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;

29. *Expresses its deep concern*, in this regard, about the negative impact on the realization of the right to development owing to the further aggravation of the economic and social situation, in particular of developing countries, as a result of the effects of 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;

30. *Encourages* Member States to give particular consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and emphasizes that the 2030 Agenda promotes respect for all human rights, including the right to development;

31. *Recalls* the commitment in the United Nations Millennium Declaration of halving the number of people living in poverty by 2015, notes with concern that some developing countries have failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard invites Member States and the international community to take proactive measures aimed at creating a conducive environment to contribute to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular increasing international cooperation, including partnership and commitment, between developed and developing countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals;

32. *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 the 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;

33. *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;

34. *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;

35. *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;

36. *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;

37. *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;

38. *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;

39. *Recalls* the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030, adopted on 8 June 2021 at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV and AIDS,²⁵ and underscores the importance of enhanced international cooperation to support the efforts of Member States to achieve health goals, including the target of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030, implement universal access to health-care services and address health challenges;

40. *Also recalls* the political declaration of the third high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases²⁶ and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis,²⁷ both adopted on 10 October 2018, with their particular focus on development and other challenges and social and economic determinants and impacts, particularly for developing countries;

41. *Further recalls* the political declaration of the high-level meeting on universal health coverage entitled “Universal health coverage: moving together to build a healthier world”, as adopted in its resolution 74/2 of 10 October 2019, in which it was reaffirmed that health is a precondition for and an outcome and indicator of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

42. *Recalls* the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,²⁸ which entered into force on 3 May 2008, and General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and, while recognizing persons with disabilities as agents and beneficiaries of development, 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;

43. *Stresses its commitment* to Indigenous Peoples in the process of the realization of the right to development, 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 recalls the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held in 2014;

²⁵ Resolution 75/284, annex.

²⁶ Resolution 73/2.

²⁷ Resolution 73/3.

²⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

44. *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;

45. *Emphasizes* the urgent need to take 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,²⁹ 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;

46. *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 the effective use of the financial and human resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, and calls upon the Secretary-General to provide the Office with the necessary resources;

47. *Reaffirms* the request to the High Commissioner, in mainstreaming the right to development, to effectively undertake 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 his next report to the Human Rights Council;

48. *Calls upon* the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to mainstream the right to development into their operational programmes and objectives, and stresses the need for the international financial and multilateral trading systems to mainstream the right to development into their policies and objectives;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs and bodies, the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, international development and financial institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations;

50. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to give due consideration to the right to development in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group on the Right to Development and the Special Rapporteur on the right to development and to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the fulfilment of his mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development;

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session and an interim report to the Human Rights Council on the implementation of the present resolution, including on efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels in the promotion and realization of the right to development, taking into account the context of the response to and the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, through equitable and fair access for all countries, in particular the most vulnerable countries and countries in special situations, to safe, quality, efficacious, effective, accessible and affordable vaccines and medicines as

²⁹ Ibid., vol. 2349, No. 42146.

global public goods, as well as to promote global extensive immunization against COVID-19, sharing the benefits of scientific progress, financial and technological support and debt relief, and invites the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur to present an oral report with a similar scope and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the Assembly at its seventy-eighth session.

*54th plenary meeting
15 December 2022*



General Assembly

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Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 68 (b)

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

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 15 December 2022

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/77/463/Add.2, para. 87)]

77/215. 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 76/165 of 16 December 2021, and Human Rights Council resolutions 18/6 of 29 September 2011,¹ 33/3 of 29 September 2016,² 36/4 of 28 September 2017,³ 39/4 of 27 September 2018,⁴ 42/8 of 26 September 2019,⁵ 45/4 of 6 October 2020,⁶ 48/8 of 8 October 2021⁷ and 51/11 of 6 October 2022,⁸

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 for all should continue to be carried out in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law, as

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A and corrigendum (A/66/53/Add.1 and A/66/53/Add.1/Corr.1)*, chap. II.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1)*, chap. II.

³ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/72/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/74/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/75/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.



set forth in Articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, and with full respect for, inter alia, 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 Rights⁹ can be fully realized,

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, including pandemics and other health-related global challenges, 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,

Concerned about the continued abuse by Member States of the extraterritorial application of their national legislation in a manner that affects the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the full enjoyment of human rights,

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-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 for all,

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

⁹ Resolution 217 A (III).

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,

Welcoming in this regard the upcoming thirtieth anniversary, in 2023, of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action¹⁰ by the World Conference on Human Rights, and stressing the need to strengthen efforts towards its implementation,

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,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹ and all its Goals and targets,

Reaffirming its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system, recognizing the key leadership role of the World Health Organization in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and recognizing also that a democratic and equitable international order enhances the capacities of all countries to respond to and recover from the pandemic and other global challenges,

¹⁰ [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

¹¹ Resolution 70/1.

Recognizing the role of extensive immunization against COVID-19 as a global public good for health in preventing, containing and stopping transmission in order to bring the pandemic to an end, through global access to vaccines that are safe, of quality, efficacious, effective and affordable for all countries,

Deeply concerned about the uneven access of developing countries to safe, quality, efficacious, effective and affordable vaccines against COVID-19, and emphasizing that a multilateral approach, based on a democratic and equitable international order, enhances the capacities of all countries, in particular developing countries, to have equal access to vaccines and other means to respond to and recover from the pandemic,

Recognizing that a democratic and equitable order requires the reform of international financial institutions, in order to widen and strengthen the level of participation of developing countries in the international decision-making process, and a more transparent and open financial system, as well as adequate measures against illicit financial flows, such as tax fraud, tax evasion, illegal capital flight, money-laundering and the proceeds of corruption, and for improving tax transparency worldwide,

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, technology transfer to and capacity-building in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, 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 of 18 June 2007,¹² and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Emphasizing the importance of the 2030 Agenda for the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order,

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. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert of the Human Rights Council on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;¹³

¹² See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/62/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

¹³ [A/HRC/51/32](#).

4. *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,¹⁴ 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;

5. *Reaffirms* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all 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 re-emphasizes the need for universal adherence to and implementation of the rule of law at both the national and international levels;

6. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(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;

¹⁴ See [A/CONF.189/12](#) and [A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1](#), chap. I.

(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 international economic, commercial and financial relations;

(n) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of humankind 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, including addressing pandemics and other health-related global challenges, as well as threats to international peace and security, which should be exercised multilaterally;

7. *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;

8. *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;

9. *Reaffirms*, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in internal affairs;

10. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, social justice, equality and equity, human dignity, solidarity, 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;

11. *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;

12. *Underlines* that attempts to overthrow legitimate Governments by force disrupt the democratic and constitutional order, the legitimate exercise of power and the full enjoyment of human rights, and reaffirms that every State has an inalienable right to choose its political, economic, social and cultural system, without interference in any form by other States;

13. *Reaffirms* the need to continue working urgently for the establishment of a new 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, in

accordance with relevant previous General Assembly resolutions, programmes of action and major conferences and summits in the economic, social and related areas;

14. *Also 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 for all and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting therefrom throughout the world;

15. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to continue to support international cooperation and multilateral efforts, under the leadership of the United Nations system and in particular the World Health Organization, and to work with all relevant actors to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial impact on all societies that contributes to a more democratic and equitable international order;

17. *Affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order, as prescribed in the Charter of the United Nations, cannot be achieved only through the deregulation of trade, markets and financial services;

18. *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;

19. *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;

20. *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;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to build upon the issue of the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;

22. *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;

23. *Requests* the Independent Expert to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, and on the role of a democratic and equitable international order in facilitating the recovery of developing countries from the COVID-19 pandemic, including their equal access to safe, quality, efficacious, effective and affordable vaccines;

24. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter at its seventy-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

*54th plenary meeting
15 December 2022*



Seventy-seventh session

Agenda item 68 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**Resolution adopted by the General Assembly
on 15 December 2022***[on the report of the Third Committee (A/77/463/Add.2, para. 87)]***77/217. 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* 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 Malnutrition,² the United Nations Millennium Declaration,³ in particular Millennium Development Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁴ in particular the Sustainable Development Goals on ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture and on ending poverty in all its forms everywhere,*Recognizing* that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals can help to ensure the end of hunger in all its forms by 2030 and to achieve food security,

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 Resolution 70/1.



Recalling the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,⁵ in which the fundamental right of every person to be free from hunger is recognized,

Bearing in mind the importance of the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, adopted in Rome on 13 June 2002,⁶

Reaffirming the importance of the 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 2004,⁷

Acknowledging that the right to food has been recognized as the right of every individual, alone or in community with others, to have physical and economic access at all times to sufficient, adequate, nutritious food, in conformity with, inter alia, the culture, beliefs, traditions, dietary habits and preferences of individuals, that is produced and consumed sustainably, thereby preserving access to food for future generations,

Reaffirming 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 2009,⁸

Recalling the proclamation by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session of 2019–2028 as the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the close links between family farming, the promotion and conservation of historical, cultural and natural heritage, traditional customs and culture, halting the loss of biodiversity and the improvement of the living conditions of people living in rural areas,

Reaffirming 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 also 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 security, improved nutrition and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the Declaration of the World Food Summit and the Rome Declaration on Nutrition,⁹ 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,

Expressing appreciation for the work of the United Nations system, in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Food Programme, aimed at ending hunger and achieving food security and improved nutrition,

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, as well as in the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the

⁵ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁶ [A/57/499](#), annex.

⁷ [E/CN.4/2005/131](#), annex.

⁸ See Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document WSFS 2009/2.

⁹ World Health Organization, document EB136/8, annex I.

Framework for Action,¹⁰ 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, despite the efforts made and the fact that some positive results have been achieved, the problems of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition have a global dimension, that there has not been sufficient progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition and that these problems are increasing dramatically in some regions in the absence of urgent, determined and concerted action,

Recognizing also the importance of traditional sustainable agricultural practices, including traditional seed supply systems, as well as access to credit and other financial services, markets, secure land tenure, health care, social services, education, training, knowledge and appropriate and affordable technologies, including efficient irrigation, the reuse of treated wastewater and water harvesting and storage for Indigenous Peoples and others living in rural areas,

Recognizing further the complex character of food insecurity and its likely recurrence due to a combination of several major factors, such as the effects of the global financial and economic crisis, environmental degradation, desertification and the adverse impacts of climate change, as well as poverty, natural disasters, armed conflicts, drought, volatility in commodity prices and the lack in many countries of the appropriate technology, investment and capacity-building necessary to confront its impact, particularly in developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, and the need for coherence and collaboration between international institutions at the global level,

Noting with great concern that millions of people are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine or are experiencing severe food insecurity in several regions of the world, and noting also that poverty, armed conflicts, drought and the volatility of commodity prices are among the factors causing or exacerbating famine and severe food insecurity and that additional efforts, including international support, to respond, prevent and prepare for increasing global food insecurity are urgently needed,

Noting the unprecedented surge in international food commodity prices which, according to the Food Price Index of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, reached their highest peak in March 2022 since its inception in 1990, in particular the rise in global prices of vegetable oil and grain, including wheat, further affecting people in vulnerable situations,

Recalling its resolution 76/264 of 23 May 2022, entitled “State of global food insecurity”, in which the General Assembly welcomed the initiative by the Secretary-General to establish a Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance, with a Steering Committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General, while also taking note of other relevant initiatives aimed at promoting food security and improved nutrition, including for those in vulnerable situations,

Noting the rise in fertilizer prices and the shortages caused by supply chain disruptions, affecting crop yields and threatening future agricultural productivity and production, especially of wheat, maize, millet, rice, sunflower oil and essential food,

Noting also the rise in energy and fuel prices, which is increasing food commodity prices, narrowing fiscal space at a time when the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing debt vulnerabilities and exposed fragilities in the global financial architecture, with many developing countries at high risk of or already in debt distress,

¹⁰ Ibid., annex II.

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, and education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies and environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which is reversing hard-won development gains and hampering progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and all its Goals and targets,

Recognizing also that the poorest and those who may be vulnerable or in vulnerable situations are the hardest hit by the pandemic and that the impact of the crisis will reverse hard-won development gains and the fulfilment of the right to food for all, and hamper progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 2, which aims to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,

Recognizing further that the COVID-19 global pandemic requires a global response based on unity, solidarity and multilateral cooperation,

Expressing its deep concern over the negative effects of armed conflicts on the enjoyment of the right to food,

Recognizing that armed conflict impacts on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems and markets, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or decreased access to supplies that are necessary for food preparation, including water and fuel,

Stressing the obligation of all States and parties to an armed conflict to protect civilians, in accordance with international humanitarian law, and calling upon Member States, the United Nations and other relevant organizations to take further steps to provide a coordinated emergency response to the food and nutrition needs of affected populations, while aiming to ensure that such steps are supportive of national strategies and programmes aimed at improving food security and nutrition,

Reaffirming that starvation of civilians as a method of combat is prohibited under international humanitarian law and that it is therefore prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, for that purpose, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, such as foodstuffs, agricultural areas for the production of foodstuffs, crops, livestock, drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works,

Resolved to act to ensure that the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and the human rights perspective are taken into account at the national, regional and international levels in measures to address the realization of the right to food,

Stressing the possible benefits of international trade to improve food and nutrition availability,

Stressing also that improving access to productive resources and investment in rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, through, inter alia, the promotion of investments in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and tackle water scarcity, as well as in programmes, practices and policies to scale up sustainable agroecological practices,

Recognizing the importance of sustainable food systems that are fit to meet environmental, economic and social challenges, in order to guarantee food security and nutrition for all,

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,

Concerned that the adverse impacts of climate change and natural disasters are harming agricultural productivity, food production and cropping patterns, thus contributing to food availability shortfalls, and that such impacts are expected to increase with future climate change,

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 security and improved nutrition 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 Security¹¹ by the Committee on World Food Security at its thirty-eighth session, held on 11 May 2012, and by the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at its 144th session,

Recalling also the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems,¹² which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security at its forty-first session, held from 13 to 18 October 2014,

Stressing the importance of the Second International Conference on Nutrition, hosted by the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in Rome from 19 to 21 November 2014, and of its outcome documents, the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action,

Stressing also the need to increase official development assistance devoted to sustainable agriculture and nutrition,

Recognizing that small and medium-sized farmers in developing countries need to receive technical, technology transfer and capacity-building support,

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

Noting the cultural values of dietary and eating habits in different cultures, and recognizing that food plays an important role in defining the identity of individuals and communities and is a cultural component that describes and gives value to a territory and its inhabitants,

Recognizing 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,

¹¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document CL 144/9 (C 2013/20), appendix D.

¹² Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, document C 2015/20, appendix D.

Recognizing also the role of the Committee on World Food Security as an inclusive international and intergovernmental platform for a broad range of committed stakeholders to work together in a coordinated manner and in support of country-led processes towards the elimination of hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition for all human beings,

Taking note with appreciation of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, convened by the Secretary-General and held on 23 and 24 September 2021, and of the Nutrition for Growth Summit, held in Tokyo on 7 and 8 December 2021,

Acknowledging the contribution of parliamentarians nationally and regionally to the reduction of hunger and malnutrition and ultimately to the realization of the right to food, and in this regard recognizing the convening of the first Global Parliamentary Summit against Hunger and Malnutrition, held in Madrid on 29 and 30 October 2018,

Recalling the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and recalling the commitment therein to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and thereby to benefit all, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [66/288](#) of 27 July 2012,

Recalling also the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030¹³ and its guiding principles, which, inter alia, recognize the importance of promoting regular disaster preparedness and response and recovery exercises, with a view to ensuring rapid and effective response to disasters and related displacement, including access to essential food and non-food relief supplies, as appropriate to local needs, as well as of fostering collaboration across global and regional mechanisms and institutions for the implementation and coherence of instruments and tools relevant to disaster risk reduction, such as for climate change adaptation, biodiversity, sustainable development, poverty eradication, environment, agriculture, health, food and nutrition and others, as appropriate,

Recalling further the proclamation at its seventieth session of 2016–2025 as the United Nations Decade of Action on Nutrition, and stressing the opportunity the Decade represents to bring together initiatives and efforts to eradicate hunger and prevent all forms of malnutrition,

Acknowledging the work done by the High-level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security 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, nutritious and sustainably produced 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. *Expresses its concern* at the fact that the effects created by the world food crisis still continue to have serious consequences for the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the impacts of the world financial and economic crisis, and at the particular effects of

¹³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

the crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially the least developed countries;

4. *Expresses particular concern* at the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the fulfilment of all human rights for all, including the right to food, underlines that the pandemic is exacerbating existing high levels of acute food insecurity, and calls upon Member States and other relevant stakeholders to consider the fulfilment of the right to food as part of the response to and recovery from the pandemic by, inter alia, keeping food and agriculture supply chains functioning, ensuring the continued trade in and movement of food and livestock, products and inputs essential for agricultural and food production to markets, minimizing food loss and waste, supporting workers and farmers, including women farmers, in agriculture and food supply chains to continue their essential work, including cross-border, in a safe manner, mobilizing and allocating adequate resources and enhancing institutional and training capacities for an accelerated implementation of sustainable agriculture and food systems, providing continued access to adequate, safe, affordable and nutritious food, and providing adequate social safety nets and assistance to minimize the negative effects of loss of livelihoods and increasing food prices on food insecurity and malnutrition;

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 Security and Nutrition in the World 2022: Repurposing food and agricultural policies to make healthy diets more affordable*, the number of hungry people in the world is growing, the vast majority of hungry people live in developing countries and over 2.3 billion people in the world experience moderate or severe food insecurity;

6. *Considers it alarming* that, as estimated by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in 2021, the number of people who did not have access to adequate food rose by 112 million, to 3.1 billion, and that between 702 million and 828 million people faced hunger in 2021;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* that, while women contribute more than 50 per cent of the food produced worldwide, they also account for 70 per cent of the world's hungry, that women and girls are disproportionately affected by hunger, food 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;

8. *Encourages* all States to mainstream a gender perspective in food security programmes and to take action to address de jure and de facto gender inequality and discrimination against women, in particular when they contribute to the malnutrition of women and girls, including measures to ensure the full and equal realization of the right to food and 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;

9. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the right to food to continue to mainstream 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 and malnutrition to continue to integrate a gender perspective into their relevant policies, programmes and activities;

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

11. *Stresses* that the primary responsibility of States is to promote and protect the right to food and that the international community should provide, through a coordinated response and upon request, international cooperation in support of national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production and access to food, including through agricultural development assistance, the transfer of technology, food crop rehabilitation assistance and food aid, ensuring food security, with special attention to the specific needs of women and girls, and promoting innovation, support for agricultural training and the development of adapted technologies, research on rural advisory services and support for access to financing services, and ensure support for the establishment of secure land tenure systems;

12. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations to take measures and support programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers, in particular during pregnancy and breastfeeding, and in children, and the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular from birth to the age of 2 years;

13. *Also calls upon* all States and, where appropriate, relevant international organizations to implement policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity, as a result of malnutrition, of children under 5 years of age, and in this regard urges States to disseminate the technical guidance prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in collaboration with the World Health Organization,¹⁴ and to apply it, as appropriate, in the design, implementation, evaluation and monitoring of laws, policies, programmes, budgets and mechanisms for remedy and redress aimed at eliminating preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age;

14. *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;

15. *Recognizes* the advances made 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;

16. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and responsible public investment in rural development, taking into consideration the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems, as endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security, is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investment, including private investment, in appropriate small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts and to tackle water scarcity;

17. *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;

18. *Also recognizes* that 70 per cent of hungry people live in rural areas, where nearly half a billion family farmers are located, 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

¹⁴ [A/HRC/27/31](#); see also Human Rights Council resolution [33/11](#) (see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum ([A/71/53/Add.1](#) and [A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1](#)), chap. II).

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 for 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;

19. *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;¹⁵

20. *Urges* States that have not yet done so to favourably consider becoming parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity¹⁶ and to consider becoming parties to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹⁷ as a matter of priority;

21. *Recognizes* the important role of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional knowledge and seed supply systems, as well as the important role of new technologies, in the conservation of biodiversity and in aiming to ensure food security and improved nutrition;

22. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,¹⁸ 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;

23. *Also recalls* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014,¹⁹ and the commitment to developing, in conjunction with the Indigenous Peoples concerned and where appropriate, policies, programmes and resources to support Indigenous Peoples' occupations, traditional subsistence activities, economies, livelihoods, food security and nutrition;

24. *Notes* the need to further examine various concepts, such as "food sovereignty", and their relation to 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;

25. *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;

26. *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

¹⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2400, No. 43345.

¹⁸ Resolution 61/295, annex.

¹⁹ Resolution 69/2.

particular to develop national protection mechanisms for people forced to leave their homes and land because of hunger or humanitarian emergencies affecting their enjoyment of the right to food;

27. *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;

28. *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;

29. *Calls for* a successful, development-oriented outcome of the trade negotiations of the World Trade Organization, in particular on the remaining issues of the Doha Development Round, as a contribution to the creation of international conditions permitting the full realization of the right to food;

30. *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;

31. *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;

32. *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 funding necessary to realize the right to food, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, and to achieve the aims of Goal 2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other food and nutrition-related targets;

33. *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, alongside the response to the spread of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other communicable diseases;

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

35. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance as an effective contribution to the sustainable expansion and improvement of agriculture and, in particular, 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;

36. *Calls upon* Member States and relevant stakeholders to strengthen international cooperation, as well as their support for multilateral efforts and for the central role of the United Nations system, in order to mobilize a coordinated global response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its adverse social, economic and financial

impact on all societies, including on the right to food, that contributes to the full realization of this right for all and leaves no one behind;

37. *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;

38. *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;

39. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations, humanitarian and development organizations and other relevant actors to urgently and effectively respond to, prevent and prepare for rising global food insecurity affecting millions of people, especially those who are facing famine or the immediate risk of famine, including by enhancing humanitarian and development cooperation and providing urgent funding to respond to the needs of the affected population, and calls upon Member States and parties to armed conflicts to respect international humanitarian law and ensure safe and unhindered humanitarian access;

40. *Calls upon* States to heed the urgent United Nations humanitarian appeal to assist countries facing drought, starvation and famine with emergency aid and urgent funding;

41. *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 its realization;

42. *Takes note with appreciation* of the interim report of the Special Rapporteur,²⁰ which is focused on emerging issues concerning the realization of the right to food, in particular in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on food security and nutrition;

43. *Recognizes* the importance of giving due consideration to the adverse impacts of climate change and to the full realization of the right to food, recalls the Paris Agreement, adopted at the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015,²¹ and also recalls the holding of the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties in Marrakech, Morocco, from 7 to 18 November 2016;

44. *Also recognizes* the impacts of climate change and of the El Niño phenomenon on agricultural production and food security around the world and the importance of designing and implementing actions to reduce its effects, in particular on vulnerable populations, such as rural women, bearing in mind the role that they play in supporting their households and communities in achieving food and nutrition security, generating income and improving rural livelihoods and overall well-being;

45. *Reiterates its support* for the realization of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, and requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High

²⁰ A/77/177.

²¹ See FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1, decision 1/CP.21, annex.

Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to provide all the human and financial resources necessary for its effective fulfilment;

46. *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),²² in which the Committee affirmed, *inter alia*, that the right to adequate food is indivisibly linked to the inherent dignity of the human person, indispensable for the fulfilment of other human rights enshrined in the International Bill of Human Rights and 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;

47. *Takes note with appreciation* of the work done by the Committee on World Food Security in order to contribute to achieving and guaranteeing global food security;

48. *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),²³ 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;

49. *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, represent a useful 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 and to support national Governments in the implementation of food security and nutrition policies, programmes and legal frameworks;

50. *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;

51. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth 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 that are within his mandate, in particular in the context of the response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

52. *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 through, *inter alia*, the submission of comments and suggestions on ways and means of realizing the right to food;

53. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its seventy-eighth session under the item entitled "Promotion and protection of human rights".

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15 December 2022*

²² See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2000, Supplement No. 2* and corrigendum (E/2000/22 and E/2000/22/Corr.1), annex V.

²³ *Ibid.*, 2003, *Supplement No. 2* (E/2003/22), annex IV.