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Organizational and procedural matters

Report of the Human Rights Council on its nineteenth session

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Part One

Resolutions, decisions and President's statements

I. Resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session

19/1

The escalating grave human rights violations and deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Having held an urgent debate to discuss the escalating grave human rights violations and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic,

Expressing grave concern at the deterioration of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, in particular the ongoing human rights violations and use of violence by the Syrian authorities against its population, resulting in a humanitarian crisis,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 66/176 of 19 December 2011 and 66/253 of 23 February 2012, Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1 of 29 April 2011, S-17/1 of 23 August 2011 and S-18/1 of 2 December 2011, the decisions, initiatives, efforts and measures of the League of Arab States to address all aspects of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including its resolutions 7444 of 22 January 2012 and 7446 of 12 February 2012, and the final communiqué of the Executive Committee of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation after its meeting on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, held on 30 November 2011,

Welcoming the conclusions of the Chairman of the International Conference of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People of 24 February 2012,

1. *Strongly condemns* the continued widespread and systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms by the Syrian authorities, such as the use of force against civilians, arbitrary executions, the killing and persecution of protestors, human rights defenders and journalists, including recent deaths of Syrian and foreign journalists, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, interference with access to medical treatment, torture, sexual violence and ill-treatment, including against children;

2. *Deplores* the brutal actions of the Syrian regime over the past 11 months, such as its use of heavy artillery and tanks to attack residential areas of cities and towns, which have led to the death of thousands of innocents civilians, caused widespread destruction, forced tens of thousands of Syrians to flee their homes and created widespread suffering among the Syrian people, resulting in a humanitarian crisis;

3. *Expresses strong concern* at the humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the lack of access to basic food, medicine and fuel, as well as threats to and acts of violence against medical staff, patients and facilities;

4. *Reiterates* the need to urgently address humanitarian needs, to facilitate the effective delivery of assistance and to ensure safe access to medical treatment;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to immediately put an end to all human rights violations and attacks against civilians, to cease all violence, to allow free and unimpeded access by the United Nations and humanitarian agencies to carry out a full assessment of needs in Homs and other areas, and to permit humanitarian agencies to deliver vital relief goods and services to all civilians affected by the violence, especially in Homs, Dar'a, Zabadani and other areas under siege by the Syrian security forces;

6. *Stresses the importance* of ensuring accountability and the need to end impunity and hold to account those responsible for human rights violations, including those violations that may amount to crimes against humanity;

7. *Acknowledges* the serious and growing burden carried by the neighbours of the Syrian Arab Republic in hosting refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic and committed to provide appropriate support and assistance in this regard;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter and to take further action on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, including after the forthcoming interactive dialogue with the commission of inquiry.

*10th meeting
1 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 37 to 3, with 3 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Guatemala, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay

Against:

China, Cuba, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Ecuador, India, Philippines]

19/2

Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant instruments,

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 18 June 2007,

Reaffirming that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat terrorism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, as applicable,

Taking note of the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission of Sri Lanka and its findings and recommendations, and acknowledging its possible contribution to the process of national reconciliation in Sri Lanka,

Welcoming the constructive recommendations contained in the Commission's report, including the need to credibly investigate widespread allegations of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, demilitarize the north of Sri Lanka, implement impartial land dispute resolution mechanisms, re-evaluate detention policies, strengthen formerly independent civil institutions, reach a political settlement on the devolution of power to the provinces, promote and protect the right of freedom of expression for all and enact rule of law reforms,

Noting with concern that the report does not adequately address serious allegations of violations of international law,

1. *Calls upon* the Government of Sri Lanka to implement the constructive recommendations made in the report of the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and to take all necessary additional steps to fulfil its relevant legal obligations and commitment to initiate credible and independent actions to ensure justice, equity, accountability and reconciliation for all Sri Lankans;

2. *Requests* the Government of Sri Lanka to present, as expeditiously as possible, a comprehensive action plan detailing the steps that the Government has taken and will take to implement the recommendations made in the Commission's report, and also to address alleged violations of international law;

3. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant special procedures mandate holders to provide, in consultation with and with the concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka, advice and technical assistance on implementing the above-mentioned steps; and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to present a report on the provision of such assistance to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session.

*52nd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 24 to 15, with 8 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Austria, Belgium, Benin, Cameroon, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Italy, Libya, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay

Against:

Bangladesh, China, Congo, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kuwait, Maldives, Mauritania, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Uganda

Abstaining:

Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Senegal]

19/3 Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling paragraph 5 (g) of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly decided that the Human Rights Council should assume the role and

responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights relating to the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as decided by the Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993,

Taking note of all relevant resolutions on this issue adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council,

Taking note also of the report of the High Commissioner on the composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner,¹

Recalling the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit on the follow-up to the management review of the Office of the High Commissioner² and on the funding and staffing of the Office,³

Bearing in mind that an imbalance in the composition of the staff could diminish the effectiveness of the work of the Office of the High Commissioner if it is perceived to be culturally biased and unrepresentative of the United Nations as a whole,

Reiterating its concern that, despite the repeated requests to correct the unbalanced geographical distribution of the staff, the situation remains that one region accounts for almost half of the posts of the Office of the High Commissioner,

Reaffirming the importance of continuing ongoing efforts to address the imbalance regarding the regional representation of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner, including in the senior management positions,

Underlining that the paramount consideration for employing staff at every level is the need for the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and taking into account Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, expressing its conviction that this objective is compatible with the principle of equitable geographical distribution,

Reaffirming that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters,

1. *Expresses* its serious concern at the fact that, despite the measures taken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the imbalance in the geographical representation of its composition continues to be prominent, and that a single region occupies almost half of the posts of the Office of the High Commissioner;

2. *Welcomes* the statement made by the High Commissioner in her report that achieving geographical balance in the staff of her Office will remain one of her priorities, and requests the High Commissioner to continue to take all measures needed to redress the current imbalance in geographical distribution of the staff of the Office;

3. *Notes* the increase in the past four years in the percentage of staff from regions identified as requiring better representation and the various measures proposed and already taken to address the imbalance in geographical distribution of the staff, while noting with concern the small increase in 2011 and no change in the status of the prominent region, and stresses the need to implement additional measures to redress the prominent imbalance in a more expeditious way;

¹ A/HRC/19/24.

² A/59/65-E/2004/48 and Add.1.

³ JIU/REP/2007/8.

4. *Takes note* of the progress achieved in improving the geographic diversity of the staff of the Office, and takes note also of the commitment of the High Commissioner to remain attentive to the need to maintain the emphasis on the broadest possible geographic diversity of her Office, as stated in the conclusion of her report;

5. *Requests* the High Commissioner to work on the broadest geographical diversity of her staff by enhancing the implementation of measures to achieve a better representation of countries and regions that are unrepresented or underrepresented, particularly from the developing world, while considering applying a zero-growth cap on the representation of countries and regions already overrepresented in the Office of the High Commissioner;

6. *Welcomes* the efforts made towards the achievement of a gender balance in the composition of the staff and the decision to continue to pay special attention to this issue;

7. *Requests* future High Commissioners to continue to enhance the ongoing efforts made in the fulfilment of the goal of a geographical balance in the composition of the staff of the Office;

8. *Underlines* the importance of continuing to promote geographical diversity in recruitment and promotion to high-level and Professional posts, including senior managers, as a principle of the staffing policies of the Office of the High Commissioner;

9. *Affirms* the vital importance of geographical balance in the composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner, taking into account the significance of national and regional specificities and various historic, cultural and religious backgrounds, as well as of different political, economic and legal systems, to the promotion and protection of the universality of human rights;

10. *Recalls* the provisions contained in section X, paragraph 3, of General Assembly resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001, on human resources management, in which the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to increase further his efforts to improve the composition of the Secretariat by ensuring a wide and equitable geographical distribution of staff in all departments, and also recalls the request that he submit to the General Assembly proposals for a comprehensive review of the system of desirable ranges, with a view to establishing a more effective tool to ensure equitable geographical distribution in relation to the total number of staff of the Secretariat;

11. *Encourages* the General Assembly to consider further measures to promote desirable ranges of geographical balance in the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner representing national and regional specificities and various historic, cultural and religious backgrounds, as well as the diversity of political, economic and legal systems;

12. *Welcomes* the increase in the human and financial resources allocated to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the impact it should have on the geographic composition of the Office;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of the follow-up to and implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/159 of 19 December 2006, and underlines the priority importance that the Assembly continue to provide support and guidance to the High Commissioner in the ongoing process of improvement of the geographical balance in the composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner;

14. *Requests* the High Commissioner to submit a comprehensive and updated report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session, in accordance with its annual programme of work, following the structure and scope of her report and with a

special focus on further measures taken to correct the imbalance in the geographical composition of the staff of the Office.

52nd session
22 March 2012

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 33 to 12, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Chile, Congo]

19/4

Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living in the context of disaster settings

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council, as well as those adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on the issue of adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, including Council resolution 15/8 of 30 September 2010,

Recalling all previous resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights on the issue of women's equal rights to ownership of, access to and control over land and the equal rights to own property and to adequate housing, including resolution 2005/25 of 15 April 2005,

Reaffirming that international human rights law instruments, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, entail obligations and commitments of States parties in relation to access to adequate housing,

Reaffirming also the principles and commitments with regard to adequate housing enshrined in the relevant provisions of declarations and programmes adopted by major United Nations conferences and summits and at special sessions of the General Assembly and at their follow-up meetings, inter alia, the Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements and the Habitat Agenda,⁴ and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, adopted at the twenty-fifth special session of the Assembly and annexed to its resolution S-25/2 of 9 June 2001,

⁴ A/CONF.165/14.

Reaffirming further the importance of implementing the Hyogo Declaration⁵ and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,⁶ adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005,

Concerned that any deterioration in the general housing situation disproportionately affects persons living in conditions of poverty, low-income earners, women, children, persons belonging to minorities and indigenous peoples, migrants, internally displaced persons, tenants, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and increases the need for them to be supported against extreme natural disasters,

Noting the work of the United Nations treaty bodies, in particular the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in the promotion of the rights relating to adequate housing, including its general comments Nos. 4, 7, 9, 16 and 20,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and extreme climate and weather events and their increasing impact in the context of climate change and urbanization, as well as other factors that might affect the exposure, vulnerability and capacity to respond to such disasters, which have resulted in massive loss of life, homes and livelihoods, together with forced displacement and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for all societies throughout the world,

Recognizing that vulnerable persons are disproportionately susceptible to recurring displacement, evictions without adequate remedies and exclusion from meaningful consultation and participation during disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness, as well as in all phases of disaster response and recovery, to the detriment of their enjoyment of the right to adequate housing,

Recognizing also that the integration of a human rights-based approach into the framework of disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness, as well as in all phases of disaster response and recovery, represents an important factor into the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, and underlining in this regard the principles of participation and empowerment,

1. *Acknowledges* the work of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, including the undertaking of country missions;

2. *Welcomes* the reports presented by the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly⁷ and to the Human Rights Council,⁸ and takes note with appreciation of the framework presented to comprehensively respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate housing in the context of post-disaster settings;

3. *Encourages* States and relevant actors to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living in their broader disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness initiatives, as well as in all phases of disaster response and recovery;

4. *Urges* States, in the context of post-disaster settings, and recognizing that short-term humanitarian response and early recovery phases are based on needs, to respect, protect and fulfil the right to adequate housing without discrimination of any kind as to

⁵ A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1, chap. I, resolution 1.

⁶ Ibid., resolution 2.

⁷ A/66/270.

⁸ A/HRC/16/42.

race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and, in this regard:

(a) To ensure that all affected persons, irrespective of their pre-disaster tenure status and without discrimination of any kind, have equal access to housing that fulfils the requirements of adequacy, namely the criteria of accessibility, affordability, habitability, security of tenure, cultural adequacy, suitability of location, access to essential services and respect for safety standards aimed at reducing damage in cases of future disasters;

(b) To integrate, in post-disaster settings, including where temporary shelter is required as an interim response, the right to adequate housing as a key component of planning and implementation of humanitarian, reconstruction and development responses;

(c) To give due priority to the realization of the right to adequate housing for the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons through housing reconstruction and the provision of alternative housing, especially by respecting the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality, and by integrating a gender perspective into policies, strategies and programmes for disaster risk reduction, prevention and preparedness, as well as into all phases of disaster response and recovery;

(d) To ensure that accessibility for persons with disabilities is taken into account during all phases of reconstruction, in accordance with international law and standards;

(e) To aim to ensure access to information and meaningful consultation and participation of affected persons and communities in the planning and implementation of shelter and housing assistance;

(f) To ensure that the tenure rights of those without individual or formally registered property ownership are recognized in restitution, compensation, reconstruction and recovery programmes, giving particular consideration to the most vulnerable persons and by taking measures to support their repossession of or alternative access to adequate housing or land;

(g) To support the voluntary return of displaced persons or groups to their former homes, lands or places of habitual residence, in safety and dignity, based on a free, informed choice, and to ensure that relocation and local integration conditions for displaced persons are in accordance with international human rights law and standards as reflected in the guidelines pertaining to adequate housing, evictions and displacement, in particular the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Operational Guidelines on the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters adopted by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

(h) To ensure that cases of permanent relocation are kept to a minimum and are only carried out after all alternative and less disruptive options have been exhausted, and, where there is a clear issue of public safety, that the relocation is done in accordance with international law;

(i) To ensure that appropriate measures are taken to make available adequate alternative shelter to those unable to provide for themselves;

(j) To make accessible appropriate remedies, including access to legal counsel and legal aid, and to guarantee a fair hearing to all persons threatened with or subject to eviction;

5. *Welcomes* the cooperation extended to the Special Rapporteur by States and other relevant actors in the context of post-disaster response and recovery, and calls upon them to continue to cooperate with her on this issue, to share good practices in this regard and to respond favourably to her requests for information and visits;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human rights to provide all assistance necessary to the Special Rapporteur for the effective fulfilment of her mandate;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item.

52nd meeting
22 March 2012

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/5

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles relating to economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,⁹ the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹⁰ and General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly established the Human Rights Council, all affirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing and must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and recalling also that the promotion and protection of one category of rights should never exempt States from the promotion and protection of the other rights,

Recalling also previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council and of the Commission on Human Rights on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as Council resolution 4/7 of 30 March 2007,

Welcoming ongoing efforts, including by the Human Rights Council, towards the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and encouraging additional efforts to ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the removal of obstacles thereto at all levels,

Mindful of recent significant developments and remaining challenges in the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing that the early entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, through its ratification by ten States, will be an important tool to help to strengthen the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights worldwide, and noting with interest the fact that thirty-nine States have signed the Optional Protocol and eight have ratified it since it was opened for signature on 24 September 2009,

1. *Affirms:*

(a) That the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights recognize that the ideal of free human beings enjoying

⁹ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights;

(b) That all persons in all countries are entitled to the realization of their economic, social and cultural rights, which are indispensable to their dignity and the free development of their personality;

(c) The universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the obligation of all States to ensure the full promotion, protection and realization of all human rights;

(d) The importance of international cooperation in assisting Governments to fulfil their obligation to protect and promote all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, while emphasizing that the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights lies with States;

(e) The inextricable link between full respect for the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the process of development;

2. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To give full effect to economic, social and cultural rights;

(b) To consider signing and ratifying, and States parties to implement, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

(c) To guarantee that economic, social and cultural rights shall be exercised without discrimination of any kind;

(d) To secure progressively, through national development policies and with international assistance and cooperation, as appropriate, the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights, paying particular attention to individuals and communities living in extreme poverty;

(e) To promote the meaningful and wide participation of civil society in decision-making processes relating to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, including through efforts to identify and strengthen good governance practices;

3. *Encourages* all States that have not yet signed and ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to consider doing so with a view to its early entry into force;

4. *Calls upon* the States parties to the Covenant:

(a) To withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Covenant, and to consider reviewing other reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

(b) To submit their reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in a regular and timely manner;

(c) To promote a concerted national effort to ensure the participation of civil society in the preparation of their periodic reports for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and in the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) To ensure that the Covenant is taken into account in all their relevant national and international policymaking processes;

5. *Reiterates* that respect for and the promotion and protection of human rights are an integral part of effective work towards achieving the Millennium Development

Goals, and emphasizes the central role of the United Nations in enhancing global partnerships for development, with a view to creating a supportive global environment for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals;

6. *Recalls* General Assembly resolution 64/292 of 28 July 2010, in which the Assembly recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and Human Rights Council resolution 15/9 of 30 September 2010, in which the Council affirmed that the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation is derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as the right to life and human dignity;

7. *Also recalls* that international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social and cultural character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is one of the purposes of the United Nations, and affirms that wider international cooperation should contribute to lasting progress in implementing economic, social and cultural rights;

8. *Notes with interest* the work carried out by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to assist States parties in fulfilling their obligations, including through the submission of general comments;

9. *Encourages* the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to continue its efforts towards the promotion, protection and full realization of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at the national and international levels, including by making the experience gained through the examination of States parties' reports available for the benefit of all States parties, and by organizing regional workshops to promote follow-up to its concluding observations;

10. *Expresses its appreciation for and encourages* the continuation of the work relating to the promotion, protection and full realization of economic, social and cultural rights carried out by other human rights treaty bodies working on issues that bear upon the Covenant and United Nations bodies, specialized agencies or programmes;

11. *Also expresses its appreciation for and encourages* the continuation of the work relating to the promotion, protection and full realization of economic, social and cultural rights carried out by all relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council;

12. *Encourages* enhanced cooperation and, as appropriate, increased coordination between the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and United Nations bodies, specialized agencies or programmes, mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, and other human rights treaty bodies whose activities have a bearing on economic, social and cultural rights, in a manner that respects their distinctive mandates and promotes their policies, programmes and projects;

13. *Welcomes* the inclusion of the issue of the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,¹¹ in which States underscored, inter alia, the need to design, promote and implement, at the national, regional and international levels, strategies, programmes and policies, and adequate legislation, which may include special and positive measures, for furthering equal social development and the realization of the civil and political, economic, social and cultural rights of all victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

¹¹ See A/CONF.189/12 and Corr.1, chap. I.

14. *Welcomes and encourages* regional initiatives to promote the further realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

15. *Recognizes and encourages* the important contributions of national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to the question of the realization and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* for the activities carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, mainly through technical cooperation, the work of its field offices, its relevant reports to United Nations bodies, the development of in-house expertise and its publications and studies on related issues;

17. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner:

(a) To continue to provide or facilitate practical support aimed at building capacities for the full realization of economic, social and cultural rights;

(b) To continue its cooperation with other United Nations agencies as part of the integration of economic, social and cultural rights within the United Nations system;

(c) To strengthen its research and analytical capacities in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, and to share its expertise through, inter alia, the holding of expert meetings;

(d) To strengthen support for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(e) To continue its activities on the promotion and awareness-raising of economic, social and cultural rights, including by supporting regional initiatives relating to the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

18. *Takes note with interest* of the report of the High Commissioner on the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights¹² and its recommendations, submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 14/13 of 18 June 2010;

19. *Decides* to focus on the issue of economic, social and cultural rights of women and the empowerment of women in this regard, including in the context of the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, in consultation with States, relevant special procedures and United Nations bodies and agencies and other stakeholders, in its annual discussion on the integration of a gender perspective, to be held at the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare and disseminate a report on the proceedings;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-second session, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, with a special focus on economic, social and cultural rights of women and the empowerment of women in this regard, including in the context of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

¹² A/HRC/17/24 and Corr.1.

21. *Decides* to remain seized of this issue and to consider taking further actions in order to implement the present resolution.

*52nd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/6 Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and all other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council, including Assembly resolutions 62/155 of 18 December 2007 and 63/22 of 13 November 2008, and Council resolutions 6/6 of 28 September 2007 and 10/23 of 26 March 2009,

Noting the declarations within the United Nations system on cultural diversity and international cultural cooperation, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation and the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1966 and 2001, respectively,

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, and stressing that all mandate holders shall discharge their duties in accordance with these resolutions and annexes thereto,

Welcoming the increasing number of States parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 20 October 2005 and which entered into force on 18 March 2007,

Convinced that international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all should be based on an understanding of the economic, social and cultural specificities of each country and the full realization and recognition of the universality of all human rights and the principles of freedom, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Determined to treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

1. *Reaffirms* that cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent;
2. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

3. *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;

4. *Recalls*, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, that no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope;

5. *Reaffirms* that States have the responsibility to promote and protect cultural rights;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the cultural diversity and cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

7. *Welcomes* the work and contributions of the Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights;

8. *Decides* to extend, for a period of three years, the mandate of the current mandate holder as a special rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, as set out in the relevant United Nations human rights instruments, with the following mandate:

(a) To identify best practices in the promotion and protection of cultural rights at the local, national, regional and international levels;

(b) To identify possible obstacles to the promotion and protection of cultural rights, and to submit proposals and/or recommendations to the Human Rights Council on possible actions in that regard;

(c) To work in cooperation with States in order to foster the adoption of measures at the local, national, regional and international levels aimed at the promotion and protection of cultural rights through concrete proposals enhancing subregional, regional and international cooperation in that regard;

(d) To study the relationship between cultural rights and cultural diversity, in close collaboration with States and other relevant actors, including in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, with the aim of further promoting cultural rights;

(e) To integrate a gender and disabilities perspective into his or her work;

(f) To work in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, other special procedures of the Human Rights Council, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as with other relevant actors representing the broadest possible range of interests and experiences, within their respective mandates, including by attending and following up on relevant international conferences and events;

9. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the discharge of his or her mandate, to provide him or her with all the necessary information requested by him or her and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to his or her requests to visit their countries in order to enable him or her to fulfil his or her duties effectively;

10. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide all the necessary human and financial resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate by the Special Rapporteur;

11. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to report regularly to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work;

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item in accordance with its programme of work.

*52nd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/7

The right to food

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the right to food, in particular Assembly resolution 65/220 of 21 December 2010 and Council resolutions 13/4 of 24 March 2010 and 16/27 of 25 March 2011, as well as all resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the issue,

Recalling also the seventh special session of the Human Rights Council, at which the Council analysed the negative impact of the worsening of the world food crisis on the realization of the right to food for all, and Council resolutions S-7/1 of 22 May 2008, 9/6 of 18 September 2008 and 12/10 of 1 October 2009,

Recalling further the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for her or his health and well-being, including food, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

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

Bearing in mind the Rome Declaration on World Food Security, the World Food Summit Plan of Action and the Declaration of the World Food Summit, adopted on 13 June 2002, the Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, adopted on 16 November 2009, and the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Countries, adopted on 15 April 1994,

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

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

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 international levels, is the essential foundation that

will enable States to give adequate priority to food and nutrition security and poverty eradication,

Reiterating, as in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Declaration of the World Food Summit: five years later, 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 of the United Nations and that endanger food and nutrition security,

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

Recognizing that, despite the efforts made, the problems of hunger and food and nutrition insecurity have a global dimension and that there has been insufficient progress made in reducing hunger, and that they could increase dramatically in some regions unless urgent, determined and concerted action is taken,

Recognizing also the complex character of the global food crisis as a combination of several major factors, including speculation on food commodities and macroeconomic factors, also affected negatively by environmental degradation, desertification and global climate change, natural disasters and the lack of development and transfer of relevant technology to address this issue, particularly in developing countries and least developed countries, that are having a negative impact on the realization of the right to food, in particular in the said countries,

Concerned by the fact that the effects of the world food crisis continue to have serious consequences for the most vulnerable people, particularly in developing countries, which have been further aggravated by the world economic and financial crisis, and alarmed at the particular effects of this crisis on many net food-importing countries, especially on least developed countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean,

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

Recognizing the importance and positive role of smallholder farmers, including women, cooperatives and indigenous and local communities in developing countries,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters, diseases and pests and their increasing impact in recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and livelihood and threatened agricultural production and food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the importance of reversing the substantial decline in assistance devoted to agriculture since 1980, both in real terms and as a share of total official development assistance, while noting the recent partial inversion of this trend,

Recalling the pledges made to increase official development assistance devoted to agriculture, as well as that the realization of the right to food not only entails an increase in productivity but also a holistic approach that includes a focus on smallholder and traditional farmers, in particular women farmers, and the most vulnerable groups, as well as national and international policies that are conducive to the realization of this right,

Recognizing the need to increase sustainable investment in agriculture from all relevant sources for the realization of 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 and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities;

3. *Expresses grave concern* at the evolution of the world food crisis, which has been further aggravated by the world economic and financial crisis and seriously undermines the realization of the right to food for all, especially for one sixth of the world population, mainly in developing and least developed countries, who suffer from hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity;

4. *Considers it intolerable* that, according to an estimation by the United Nations Children's Fund, more than one third of the children who die every year before the age of 5 years do so from hunger-related illness, and that, according to an estimation by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the number of people who are undernourished is nine hundred and twenty five million worldwide, and that there is an additional one billion people suffering from serious malnutrition, including as a result of the global food crisis, even though, according to the latter organization, the planet could produce enough food to feed twelve billion people;

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

6. *Recognizes* the importance of smallholder farmers in developing countries, including women and local and indigenous communities, in ensuring food and nutrition security, reducing poverty and preserving ecosystems, and the need to assist their development;

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

8. *Stresses* the need to guarantee fair and non-discriminatory access to land rights for smallholders, traditional farmers and their organizations, including, in particular, rural women and vulnerable groups;

9. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur on the right to food to ensure the mainstreaming of 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 that address the right to food and food and nutrition insecurity to integrate into and effectively implement a gender perspective and a human rights perspective in their relevant policies, programmes and activities regarding access to food;

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

11. *Encourages* States to mainstream a human rights perspective in building and reviewing their national strategies for the realization of the right to food for all, and to take 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, where appropriate, to consider establishing appropriate institutional mechanisms, in order to:

(a) Identify, at the earliest stage possible, emerging threats to the right to adequate food, with a view to facing them;

(b) Strengthen the overall national human rights protection system with a view to contributing to the realization of the right to food;

(c) Improve coordination between the different relevant ministries and between national and subnational levels of government;

(d) Improve accountability, with a clear allocation of responsibilities, and the setting of precise time frames for the realization of the dimensions of the right to food that require progressive implementation;

(e) Ensure adequate participation, particularly of the most food-insecure segments of the population;

(f) Pay specific attention to the need to improve the situation of the most vulnerable segments of society;

12. *Underlines* the significance of national government policies and strategies on food production and poverty alleviation;

13. *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 for national and regional efforts by providing the assistance necessary to increase food production, particularly through agricultural development assistance, the transfer of technology, food crop rehabilitation assistance and food aid ensuring food and nutrition security, with a special focus on the gender-sensitive dimension;

14. *Calls upon* States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to fulfil their obligations under article 2, paragraph 1, and article 11, paragraph 2, thereof, in particular with regard to the right to adequate food;

15. *Calls upon* States, individually and through international cooperation and assistance, relevant multilateral institutions and other relevant stakeholders, to take all the measures necessary to ensure the realization of the right to food as an essential human rights objective, and to consider reviewing any policy or measure that could have a negative impact on the realization of the right to food, particularly the right of everyone to be free from hunger, before instituting such a policy or measure;

16. *Stresses* that improving access to productive resources and investment in rural development is essential for eradicating hunger and poverty, in particular in developing countries, including through the promotion of investments in appropriate, small-scale irrigation and water management technologies in order to reduce vulnerability to droughts, as well as in programmes, practices and policies to scale up agroecological approaches, and encourages States and donors, both public and private, to examine and consider ways to integrate, where applicable and according to national contexts, the

recommendations contained in the latest report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food¹³ in policies and programmes;

17. *Recognizes* that 80 per cent of people suffering from hunger live in rural areas, and 50 per cent are small-scale and traditional farmers, in particular women farmers, and that these people are especially vulnerable to food and nutrition insecurity, given the increasing cost of various inputs and the fall in farm incomes; that access to land, water, seeds and other natural resources is an increasing challenge for poor producers; that sustainable and gender-sensitive agricultural policies are important tools to achieve food and nutrition security and rural development; and that support by States for small farmers, fishing communities and local enterprises is a key element to food security and the provision of the right to food;

18. *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 countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa;

19. *Recalls* the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and acknowledges that many indigenous organizations and representatives of indigenous peoples have expressed in different forums their deep concern over the obstacles and challenges they face to 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;

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

21. *Encourages* all relevant international organizations and agencies to bring a human rights perspective and the need for the realization of the right to food for all to their studies, research, reports and resolutions on the issue of food and nutrition security;

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

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

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

25. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue to cooperate with States in order to enhance the contribution of development cooperation and food aid to the

¹³ A/HRC/19/59 and Corr.1.

realization of the right to food, within existing mechanisms, taking into account the views of all stakeholders;

26. *Stresses* that all States should make every effort 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;

27. *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;

28. *Recognizes* that the commitments made at the World Food Summit in 1996 to halve the number of people who are undernourished are not being fulfilled, while recognizing the efforts of Member States in that regard, and urges all States and international financial and development institutions, as well as the relevant United Nations agencies and funds, to give priority to and provide the necessary funding for realizing the aim of halving by 2015 the number, or at least the proportion, of people who suffer from hunger, as stated in Millennium Development Goal 1, as well as the right to food, as set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

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

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

31. *Stresses* the importance of international cooperation and development assistance, as an effective contribution to both the expansion and improvement of agriculture and its environmental sustainability, and the provision of humanitarian food assistance in activities relating to emergency situations for the realization of the right to food and the achievement of sustainable food and nutrition security, while recognizing that each country has the primary responsibility for ensuring the implementation of national programmes and strategies in this regard;

32. *Reaffirms* the commitment made in the ministerial declaration of the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all, today and tomorrow, and reiterates that relevant United Nations organizations should be assured the resources needed to expand and enhance their food assistance, and support safety net programmes designed to address hunger and malnutrition, when appropriate, through the use of local and regional purchase;

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

34. *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 Africa, in particular in the Horn of Africa and in the Sahel, and expresses its deep concern that funding shortfalls are forcing the World Food Programme to cut operations across different regions, including southern Africa;

35. *Encourages* developing countries to establish regional arrangements, where they do not exist, with the support of the international community and development partners to ensure adequate food production and thereby contribute to ensuring food and nutrition security, in particular in developing countries that have scarce fertile land;

36. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of a regional approach towards ensuring food and nutrition security, and expresses its appreciation for the current collaboration with all Rome-based institutions working comprehensively towards the realization of the right to food;

37. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises to cooperate on the subject of the contribution of the private sector to the realization of the right to food, including the importance of ensuring sustainable water resources for human consumption and agriculture;

38. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur to continue his collaboration with relevant international organizations and United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, in particular the Rome-based ones, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme, in order to contribute to ensuring that the right to food is promoted further within these organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, including for the advancement of smallholders and agricultural workers in both developing and least developed countries;

39. *Expresses concern* at the negative impact on the full enjoyment of the right to adequate food of insufficient purchasing power and the increased price volatility of agricultural commodities on international markets, particularly on people in developing countries and on net food-importing countries;

40. *Stresses* the need to address the root causes of excessive food price volatility, including its structural causes, at all levels, and the need to manage the risks linked to high and excessively volatile prices in agriculture commodities and their consequences for global food and nutrition security;

41. *Encourages* the Special Rapporteur, within his existing mandate, to explore, in consultation with Member States and relevant stakeholders, ways and means of raising the capacity of countries, particularly developing countries, including least developed and net food-importing developing countries, to ensure the realization and protection of the right to adequate food for their populations, and to report on his findings to the Human Rights Council;

42. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur¹ and the recommendations contained therein;

43. *Calls upon* all States and, if appropriate, relevant international organizations:

(a) To combat the different forms of malnutrition as a means to realize the right to adequate food, including, if appropriate, by adopting a national strategy in this regard;

(b) To take measures and support programmes which are aimed at combating the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, in particular by targeting the first thousand days of a child's life;

(c) To support the national plans and programmes of countries to improve nutrition in poor households, in particular plans and programmes that are aimed at combating undernutrition in mothers and children, and those targeting the irreversible effects of chronic undernutrition in early childhood, from gestation to the age of two years;

44. *Supports* the fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, as extended for a period of three years by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 13/4, and takes note with appreciation of the work conducted by the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;

45. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, as part of his mandate, to continue to monitor the evolution of the world food crisis and, in the context of his mandate and regular reports, to keep the Human Rights Council informed of the impact of the crisis on the enjoyment of the right to food and to alert it to possible further actions in this regard;

46. *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 continuation of the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur;

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

48. *Notes* general comment No. 15 (2002) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the Covenant), in which the Committee noted, inter alia, the importance of ensuring sustainable water resources for human consumption and agriculture in the 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 practical tool in the promotion of the realization of the right to food for all, contribute to the achievement of food security and thus provide an additional instrument in the attainment of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

50. *Acknowledges* the work being carried out by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the right to food and, in that regard, takes note of its submission to the Council of the study on severe malnutrition and childhood diseases with children affected by noma as an example,¹⁴ including the human rights principles and guidelines to improve the protection of children at risk or affected by malnutrition, specifically at risk of or affected by noma, annexed thereto, and encourages States to implement those principles;

51. *Takes note* of the final study of the Advisory Committee on the advancement of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas;¹⁵

52. *Also takes note* of the preliminary study on the promotion of human rights of the urban poor: strategies and best practices,¹⁶ prepared by the Advisory Committee, and requests that the final study on this topic be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session;

¹⁴ A/HRC/19/73.

¹⁵ A/HRC/19/75.

¹⁶ A/HRC/AC/8/5.

53. *Further takes note* of the concept note for the preliminary study on rural women and the right to food, prepared by the Advisory Committee, and requests the Committee to continue to undertake a comprehensive study in that regard;

54. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to collect the views and comments of all Member States, all relevant United Nations special agencies and programmes and all other relevant stakeholders on the preliminary studies mentioned in paragraphs 52 and 53 above, so that the Advisory Committee may take them into account for the conclusion of its final studies;

55. *Welcomes* the continued cooperation of the High Commissioner, the Advisory Committee and the Special Rapporteur, and encourages them to continue their cooperation;

56. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in his task by supplying 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;

57. *Recalls* the requests made by the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/158, that the Special Rapporteur submit to the Assembly an interim report at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of that resolution and to continue his work, including by examining the emerging issues with regard to the realization of the right to food within his existing mandate;

58. *Invites* Governments, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies and civil society actors, including 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;

59. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session;

60. *Decides* to continue consideration of this matter under the same agenda item at its twenty-second session.

*52nd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/8 Freedom of religion or belief

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 36/55 of 25 November 1981, in which the General Assembly proclaimed the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief,

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

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 16/13 of 24 March 2011, and other resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights

on the elimination of all forms of intolerance and of discrimination based on religion or belief,

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

Stressing that everyone should be able to live safely, regardless of his or her religion or belief,

Recalling that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights, including the human rights of persons belonging to religious minorities, including their right to exercise their religion or belief freely,

Noting with regret that no part of the world is exempt from religious intolerance, discrimination and violence,

Expressing solidarity with States and individuals combating violence against persons belonging to religious minorities, and paying tribute to the commitment of States to prevent these acts,

Underlining that educational institutions may offer unique possibilities for constructive dialogue among all parts of society, and that human rights education in particular can contribute to the elimination of negative stereotypes that often adversely affect members of religious minorities,

1. *Stresses* that everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief, which includes the freedom to have or to adopt a religion or belief of one's choice, and the freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance, including the right to change one's religion or belief;

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

3. *Also emphasizes* the importance of the promotion of religious tolerance and respect for diversity in view of creating an environment conducive to the full enjoyment of freedom of religion or belief;

4. *Expresses deep concern* at emerging obstacles to the enjoyment of the right to freedom of religion or belief as well as instances of religious intolerance, discrimination and violence, inter alia:

(a) The increasing number of acts of violence directed against individuals and or persons belonging to religious minorities in various parts of the world;

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

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

(d) Attacks on religious places, sites and shrines, as well as vandalism of cemeteries, in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law;

5. *Condemns* all forms of violence, intolerance and discrimination based on or in the name of religion or belief, and violations of the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, as well as any advocacy of religious hatred that constitutes incitement to

discrimination, hostility or violence, whether it involves the use of print, audio-visual or electronic media or any other means;

6. *Also condemns* violence and acts of terrorism, which are increasing in number, targeting persons belonging to religious minorities across the world;

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

8. *Also emphasizes* that States should exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against persons belonging to religious minorities, regardless of the perpetrator, and that failure to do so may constitute a human rights violation;

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

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

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

(c) To end violations of the human rights of women and to devote particular attention to abolishing practices and legislation that discriminate against women, including in the exercise of their right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion or belief;

(d) To ensure that no one is discriminated against on the basis of his or her religion or belief in their access to, inter alia, education, medical care, employment, humanitarian assistance or social benefits, and to ensure that everyone has the right and the opportunity to have access, on general terms of equality, to public services in their country, without any discrimination on the basis of religion or belief;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(k) To promote, through the educational system and other means, mutual understanding, tolerance, non-discrimination and respect in all matters relating to freedom of religion or belief by encouraging, in society at large, a wider knowledge of different religions and beliefs and of the history, traditions, languages and cultures of the various religious minorities existing within their jurisdiction;

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

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

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

12. *Calls upon* States to make use of the potential of education for the eradication of prejudices and stereotypes against members of other religions or beliefs;

13. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, takes note with interest of his report,¹⁷ and requests him to submit a report annually to the Human Rights Council in accordance with its annual programme of work;

14. *Decides* to remain seized of this question under the same agenda item and to continue consideration of measures to implement the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹⁷ A/HRC/19/60.

19/9**Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law**

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly established the Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the human right of everyone to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law, which is enshrined in, inter alia, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant international instruments,

Recalling the obligation of States to register all children immediately after birth as provided for in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant international instruments,

Recalling also resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council in which they called upon States to ensure the registration of all children immediately after birth, the most recent being Assembly resolution 65/197 of 21 December 2010 and Council resolution 16/12 of 24 March 2011,

Recognizing the importance of birth registration, including late birth registration, as a means for providing an official record of the existence of a person and the recognition of that individual as a person before the law; expressing concern that unregistered individuals have limited or no access to services and enjoyment of all the rights to which they are entitled; also taking into consideration that persons without birth registration may be vulnerable to statelessness and associated lack of protection; and aware that registering a person's birth is a vital step towards his or her protection,

Recognizing also the importance of birth registration, including late birth registration, for the development of vital statistics and the effective implementation of programmes and policies intended to achieve internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Expresses concern* at the high number of persons throughout the world whose birth is not registered;
2. *Reminds* States of their obligation to undertake birth registration without discrimination of any kind;
3. *Calls upon* States to establish or strengthen existing governmental institutions responsible for birth registration and the preservation and security of such records, and to ensure they have sufficient resources to fulfil their mandate;
4. *Also calls upon* States to ensure free birth registration, including free or low-fee late birth registration, by means of universal, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective registration procedures without discrimination of any kind;
5. *Further calls upon* States to continuously raise awareness at the national and local levels of birth registration, including by engagement in public campaigns that raise awareness of the importance of birth registration for effective access to services and the enjoyment of all rights;

6. *Urges* States to identify and remove physical, administrative and any other barriers that impede access to birth registration, including late birth registration, paying due attention to, among others, those barriers relating to poverty, disability, multicultural contexts and persons in vulnerable situations;

7. *Encourages* States to request technical assistance, if required, from relevant United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Health Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Programme, and other relevant stakeholders in order to fulfil their obligation to undertake birth registration as a means to respect the right of everyone to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law;

8. *Invites* the above-mentioned United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate with States in providing technical assistance, upon request;

9. *Decides* to consider this issue in accordance with its annual programme of work.

53rd meeting
22 March 2012

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/10 Human rights and the environment

The Human Rights Council,

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

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions relevant to the relationship between human rights and the environment, including resolution 16/11 of 24 March 2011 on human rights and the environment, resolutions 7/23 of 28 March 2008, 10/4 of 25 March 2009 and 18/22 of 30 September 2011 on human rights and climate change, resolutions 9/1 of 24 September 2008 and 12/18 of 2 October 2009 on the adverse effects of the movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights, and resolution 18/11 of 29 September 2011 on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, as well as relevant Commission on Human Rights resolutions, including resolutions 2003/71 of 25 April 2003 and 2005/60 of 20 April 2005 on human rights and the environment as part of sustainable development,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, and Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

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, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial

Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

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

Recalling the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,

Cognizant of the importance of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012,

Reaffirming the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 7 on ensuring environmental sustainability, as well as the commitments made by the international community, as contained in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly,¹⁸ to make every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

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

Recalling the guiding principles on business and human rights, as endorsed by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 17/4 of 16 June 2011,

Mindful that certain aspects of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment require further study and clarification,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the analytical study on the relationship between human rights and the environment submitted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/11;¹⁹

2. *Decides* to appoint, for a period of three years, an independent expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, whose tasks will be:

(a) To study, in consultation with Governments, relevant international organizations and intergovernmental bodies, including the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant multilateral environment agreements, human rights mechanisms, local authorities, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, including those representing indigenous peoples and other persons in vulnerable situations, the private sector and academic institutions, the human rights obligations, including non-discrimination obligations, relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment;

(b) To identify, promote and exchange views on best practices relating to the use of human rights obligations and commitments to inform, support and strengthen environmental policymaking, especially in the area of environmental protection, and, in that regard, to prepare a compendium of best practices;

¹⁸ See resolution 65/1.

¹⁹ A/HRC/19/34.

(c) To make recommendations, consistent with her or his mandate, that could help the realization of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 7;

(d) To take into account the results of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to be held in June 2012, and to contribute a human rights perspective to follow-up processes;

(e) To apply a gender perspective by, inter alia, considering the particular situation of women and girls and identifying gender-specific discrimination and vulnerabilities;

(f) To work in close coordination, while avoiding unnecessary duplication, with other special procedures and subsidiary organs of the Human Rights Council, relevant United Nations bodies and the treaty bodies, taking into account the views of other stakeholders, including relevant regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and academic institutions;

(g) To submit a first report, including conclusions and recommendations, to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session and annually thereafter;

3. *Requests* the High Commissioner to ensure that the Independent Expert receives the resources necessary to enable him or her to discharge the mandate fully;

4. *Calls upon* all States, United Nations agencies, other relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations, the private sector and national human rights institutions to cooperate fully with the Independent Expert, and invites them to share best practices with the Independent Expert and to provide him or her with all the necessary information relating to the mandate to enable him or her to fulfil the mandate;

5. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to participate in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in order to promote a human rights perspective;

6. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the matter under the same agenda item at its twenty-second session.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/11

Rights of persons with disabilities: participation in political and public life

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the need for persons with disabilities to be guaranteed the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms without discrimination,

Reaffirming also all previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons with disabilities, the most recent of which was resolution 16/15 of 24 March 2011, and welcoming the efforts of all stakeholders to implement those resolutions,

Reaffirming further the right to participate in political and public life, as set out in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that everyone has the

right to take part in the Government of his or her country directly, or through freely chosen representatives, and the right of equal access to public service, as well as, inter alia, article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, most recently and with regard to persons with disabilities, in article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling that the above-mentioned article 29 of the Convention reaffirms the right of persons with disabilities to participate in political and public life, and that parties to the Convention are required to guarantee political rights to persons with disabilities and adopt all appropriate measures to ensure that they enjoy these rights on an equal basis with others,

Recognizing that progress has been made, yet deeply concerned that many persons with disabilities in all regions continue to be denied their right to participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, and noting that the exclusion or restriction of political rights of persons with disabilities on the basis of disability constitutes discrimination contrary to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Emphasizing that full and effective participation and inclusion in society is a general principle of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and thus that participation in political and public life on an equal basis with others is closely interrelated with and interdependent on other Convention provisions, including those that require States parties to ensure non-discrimination and accessibility and to recognize legal capacity and the right to participate in the community on an equal basis with others,

Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple forms of discrimination, including in their participation in political and public life,

1. *Welcomes* the fact that, to date, one hundred and fifty three States have signed and one hundred and nine States and one regional integration organization have ratified or acceded to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and that ninety States have signed and sixty six States have ratified or acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention, and calls upon those States and regional integration organizations that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention and the Optional Protocol to consider doing so as a matter of priority;

2. *Encourages* States that have ratified the Convention and have submitted one or more reservations to it to initiate a process to review regularly the effect and continued relevance of such reservations, and to consider the possibility of withdrawing them;

3. *Welcomes* the thematic study on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,²⁰ and calls upon all stakeholders to consider the findings and recommendations of the study;

4. *Calls upon* States parties to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and be elected, and to participate in the conduct of public affairs;

5. *Also calls upon* States parties to adopt and implement appropriate measures to ensure that persons with disabilities can participate effectively and fully in political and public life on an equal basis with others, including by, inter alia:

²⁰ A/HRC/19/36.

(a) Providing persons with disabilities with access to the support they may require in exercising their legal capacity and, where necessary, and at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice;

(b) Providing reasonable accommodation and eliminating barriers that prevent or limit effective and full participation in political and public life, including physical and communication barriers, such as inaccessible polling stations or the lack of election information or materials in accessible formats;

(c) Protecting the right to vote by secret ballot and the right to stand for elections and to effectively hold office, and to have access to public service positions, including by providing reasonable accommodation;

(d) Promoting public awareness campaigns and training programmes relevant to the exercise of political rights by persons with disabilities, and ensuring an inclusive education system directed at, inter alia, the strengthening of respect for human rights, including political rights;

(e) Adopting measures to encourage the active involvement of persons with disabilities in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with public and political life, including political parties, community-based organizations and public boards, as well as the forming and joining of organizations of persons with disabilities at the local, regional, national and international levels;

6. *Further calls upon* States parties to ensure that measures to assist persons with disabilities in their participation in political and public life are consistent with the Convention, including the general principle of inclusion in society;

7. *Urges* States parties to review any existing exclusion or restriction of political rights for persons with disabilities, including those persons with psychosocial, mental or intellectual disabilities, and to take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices that constitute discrimination against persons with disabilities;

8. *Calls upon* States parties, in adopting and implementing measures to ensure that persons with disabilities have the opportunity to participate effectively and fully in political and public life, including the conduct of public affairs on an equal basis with others, to consult closely with and actively involve persons with disabilities;

9. *Also calls upon* States and invites other relevant stakeholders, including national monitoring mechanisms, to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable the formulation and implementation of policies relating to participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities;

10. *Encourages* all relevant actors in the design of products, environments, programmes and services relating to participation in political and public life to pay due attention to universal design, which requires the consideration of the needs of all members of society in order to avoid the need for any subsequent adaptation or specialized design;

11. *Also encourages* all relevant actors in undertaking measures of international cooperation, between and among States and, as appropriate, in partnership with relevant international and regional organizations and civil society, to consider appropriate and effective measures in support of national efforts to enhance enjoyment of political rights by persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, such as by facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies relevant to participation in political and public life;

12. *Decides* to continue to integrate the rights of persons with disabilities into its work, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 7/9 of 27 March 2008;

13. *Also decides* that its next annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities will be held at its twenty-second session, and that it will focus on the work and employment of persons with disabilities;

14. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a study on the work and employment of persons with disabilities, in consultation with States and other relevant stakeholders, including the International Labour Organization, regional organizations, the Special Rapporteur on Disabilities of the Commission for Social Development, civil society organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, and national human rights institutions, and requests that the study be made available on the website of the Office of the High Commissioner, in an accessible format, prior to the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council;

15. *Encourages* organizations of persons with disabilities, national monitoring bodies and human rights institutions to participate actively in the session referred to in paragraph 13 above, as well as in regular and special sessions of the Human Rights Council and its working groups;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are adequately resourced for the fulfilment of their tasks;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to continue the progressive implementation of standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services of the United Nations system, also taking into account relevant provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and underlines that the Human Rights Council, including its Internet resources, should be fully accessible to persons with disabilities.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/12

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international human rights instruments,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 16/9 of 24 March 2011, General Assembly resolution 66/175 of 19 December 2011, and all previous resolutions of the Assembly on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and regretting the lack of cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the requests of the Council and the Assembly made in those resolutions,

Welcoming the report and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran submitted to the Human Rights Council,²¹ and expressing serious concern at the developments noted in that report as well

²¹ A/HRC/19/66.

as the lack of access permitted to the Special Rapporteur to travel to the Islamic Republic of Iran,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1, on the 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, and stressing that mandate holders are to discharge their duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran for a further period of one year, and requests the Special Rapporteur to submit a report on the implementation of his mandate to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and to permit him access to visit the country as well as to provide all information necessary to allow the fulfilment of the mandate;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with the resources necessary to fulfil the mandate.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 22 to 5, with 20 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America

Against:

Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Qatar, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay]

19/13

The situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other human rights instruments,

Recalling all previous resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including Council resolution 16/8 of 24 March 2011 and Assembly resolution 66/174 of 19 December 2011, and urging the implementation of those resolutions,

Bearing in mind paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

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, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Welcoming the reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,²² and urging the implementation of the recommendations contained therein,

Deeply concerned at the persisting deterioration in the human rights situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, at the continuing reports of systematic, widespread and grave violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights in the country and at the unresolved questions of international concern relating to the abduction of nationals of other States, and urging the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms fully,

Deploring the grave, widespread and systematic human rights abuses in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in particular the use of torture and labour camps against political prisoners and repatriated citizens of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea,

Deeply regretting the refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to recognize the mandate of the Special Rapporteur or to extend full cooperation to him and allow him access to the country,

Expressing its serious concern at the refusal of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to articulate, by the time of the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the outcome report on its universal periodic review²³ in March 2010, which recommendations enjoyed its support, and regretting the lack of action taken by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to date to implement the recommendations contained in that report,

Alarmed by the precarious humanitarian situation in the country, exacerbated by its national policy priorities,

Reaffirming that it is the responsibility of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of its entire population, including by ensuring access to adequate food,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly, and the need to ensure their protection against neglect, abuse, exploitation and violence,

Reaffirming the importance of States' engaging fully and constructively with the universal periodic review process and with other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council for the improvement of their human rights situations,

1. *Expresses its very serious concern* at the ongoing grave, widespread and systematic human rights violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea;

2. *Commends* the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the activities undertaken to date and his continued efforts in the conduct of the mandate, despite the limited access to information;

²² A/66/343 and A/HRC/19/65.

²³ A/HRC/13/13.

3. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/8, for a period of one year;
4. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur and to permit him unrestricted access to visit the country and to provide him with all information necessary to enable him to fulfil his mandate;
5. *Also urges* the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to ensure full, rapid and unimpeded access of humanitarian assistance that is delivered on the basis of need, in accordance with humanitarian principles, coupled with adequate monitoring;
6. *Encourages* the United Nations, including its specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations, mandate holders, interested institutions and independent experts and non-governmental organizations, to develop regular dialogue and cooperation with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of his mandate;
7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Special Rapporteur with all assistance and adequate staffing necessary to carry out his mandate effectively and to ensure that this mechanism works with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
8. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur to submit regular reports on the implementation of his mandate to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/14

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Human Rights Council,

Deeply concerned at the suffering of the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan due to the systematic and continuous violation of their fundamental and human rights by Israel since the Israeli military occupation of 1967,

Recalling Security Council resolution 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling also all relevant General Assembly resolutions, the most recent being resolution 66/80 of 9 December 2011, in which the Assembly declared that Israel had failed to comply with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and demanded that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan,

Reaffirming once more the illegality of the decision by Israel of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan, which has resulted in the effective annexation of that territory,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law,

Taking note with deep concern of the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of

the Occupied Territories²⁴ and, in this connection, deploring the Israeli settlement in the occupied Arab territories and expressing regret at the constant refusal of Israel to cooperate with and to receive the Special Committee,

Guided by the relevant provisions of the Charter, international law and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and the relevant provisions of the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 to the occupied Syrian Golan,

Reaffirming the importance of the peace process, which started in Madrid on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967 and 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, and the principle of land for peace, and expressing its concern at the halting of the peace process in the Middle East and its hope that peace talks will be resumed on the basis of the full implementation of resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region,

Reaffirming also the previous relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and of the Human Rights Council, the most recent being resolution 16/17 of 24 March 2011,

1. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to comply with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, in particular Security Council resolution 497 (1981), in which the Council decided, inter alia, that the decision of Israel to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without international legal effect, and demanded that Israel rescind forthwith its decision;

2. *Also calls upon* Israel to desist from its continuous building of settlements, the most recent of which is the settlement campaign being conducted by the so-called Golan Regional Council under the slogan “Come to the Golan”, and to desist from changing the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan, and emphasizes that the displaced persons of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan must be allowed to return to their homes and to recover their property;

3. *Further calls upon* Israel to desist from imposing Israeli citizenship and Israeli identity cards on the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan, and to desist from its repressive measures against them and from all other practices that obstruct the enjoyment of their fundamental rights and their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, some of which are mentioned in the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories;²⁴

4. *Calls upon* Israel to allow the Syrian population of the occupied Syrian Golan to visit their families and relatives in the Syrian motherland through the Quneitra checkpoint and under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and to rescind its decision to prohibit these visits, as it is in flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;

5. *Also calls upon* Israel to release immediately the Syrian detainees in Israeli prisons, some of whom have been detained for more than 25 years, and to treat them in conformity with international humanitarian law;

²⁴ A/66/370.

6. *Further calls upon* Israel, in this connection, to allow delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross to visit Syrian prisoners of conscience and detainees in Israeli prisons accompanied by specialized physicians to assess the state of their physical and mental health and to protect their lives;

7. *Determines* that all legislative and administrative measures and actions taken or to be taken by Israel, the occupying Power, including the Knesset's decision of 22 November 2010 to hold a referendum before any withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem, that seek to alter the character and legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan are null and void, constitute a flagrant violation of international law and of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949, and have no legal effect;

8. *Again calls upon* States Members of the United Nations not to recognize any of the above-mentioned legislative or administrative measures;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Governments, the competent United Nations organs, specialized agencies, international and regional intergovernmental organizations and international humanitarian organizations, to disseminate it as widely as possible and to report on this matter to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session;

10. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the human rights violations in the occupied Syrian Golan at its twenty-second session.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 33 to 1, with 13 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Austria, Belgium, Cameroon, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland]

19/15

Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in particular the provisions of Articles 1 and 55 thereof, which affirm the right of peoples to self-determination, and reaffirming the need for the scrupulous respect of the principle of refraining in international relations from the threat or use of force, as specified in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970,

Guided also by the provisions of article 1 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 1 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which affirm that all peoples have the right to self-determination,

Guided further by the International Covenants on Human Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and by the provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,²⁵ and in particular Part I, paragraphs 2 and 3, relating to the right of self-determination of all peoples, and especially those subject to foreign occupation,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 181 A and B (II) of 29 November 1947 and 194 (III) of 11 December 1948, as well as all other resolutions that confirm and define the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, particularly their right to self-determination,

Recalling also Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002 and 1402 (2002) of 30 March 2002,

Recalling further the conclusion of the International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion of 9 July 2004, that the construction of the wall by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, along with measures previously taken, severely impedes the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination,

Recalling the resolutions adopted in this regard by the Commission on Human Rights, the last of which was resolution 2005/1 of 7 April 2005,

Reaffirming the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination in accordance with the provisions of the Charter, relevant United Nations resolutions and declarations, and the provisions of international covenants and instruments relating to the right to self-determination as an international principle and as a right of all peoples in the world, as it is a *jus cogens* in international law and a basic condition for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region of the Middle East,

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable, permanent and unqualified right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including their right to live in freedom, justice and dignity, and to establish their sovereign, independent, democratic and viable contiguous State;
2. *Also reaffirms* its support for the solution of two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security;
3. *Stresses* the need for respect for and preservation of the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
4. *Urges* all Member States and relevant bodies of the United Nations system to support and assist the Palestinian people in the early realization of their right to self-determination;
5. *Decides* to continue consideration of this question at its twenty-second session.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

²⁵ A/CONF.157/23.

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 46 to 1, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

United States of America]

19/16

Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling further relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note of the recent reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, as well as of other relevant recent reports of the Human Rights Council,

Aware of the responsibility of the international community to promote human rights and ensure respect for international law,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice, and recalling also General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Noting in particular the Court's reply, including that the construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated regime are contrary to international law,

Reaffirming the principle of the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming also the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Reaffirming further the obligation of the States parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention under articles 146, 147 and 148 with regard to penal sanctions, grave breaches and responsibilities of the High Contracting Parties,

Reaffirming that all States have the right and the duty to take actions in conformity with international law and international humanitarian law to counter deadly acts of violence against their civilian population in order to protect the lives of their citizens,

Stressing the need for full compliance with the Israeli-Palestinian agreements reached within the context of the Middle East peace process, including the Sharm el-Sheikh understandings, and the implementation of the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict,

Stressing also the need to end the closure of the Gaza Strip and for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing, both of 15 November 2005, to allow for the freedom of movement of the Palestinian civilian population within and into and out of the Gaza Strip, taking into account Israeli concerns,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, including that arising from the excessive use of force and military operations causing death and injury to Palestinian civilians, including children, women and non-violent, peaceful demonstrators; the use of collective punishment; the closure of areas; the confiscation of land; the establishment and expansion of settlements; the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949; the destruction of property and infrastructure; and all other actions by it designed to change the legal status, geographical nature and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Gravely concerned in particular about the critical humanitarian and security situation in the Gaza Strip, including that resulting from the prolonged closures and severe economic and movement restrictions that in effect amount to a blockade and the military operations between December 2008 and January 2009, which caused extensive loss of life and injury, particularly among Palestinian civilians, including children and women, widespread destruction and damage to Palestinian homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities and the internal displacement of civilians, as well as about the firing of rockets into Israel,

Expressing deep concern about the short- and long-term detrimental impact of such widespread destruction and the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, on the human rights situation and on the socioeconomic and humanitarian conditions of the Palestinian civilian population,

Also expressing deep concern at the Israeli policy of closures and the imposition of severe restrictions, checkpoints, several of which have been transformed into structures akin to permanent border crossings, and a permit regime, all of which obstruct the freedom of movement of persons and goods, including medical and humanitarian goods, throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and impair the Territory's contiguity, and at the consequent violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people and the negative impact on their socioeconomic situation and the efforts aimed at rehabilitating and developing the Palestinian economy, which remains that of a humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip, while taking note of recent developments with regard to the situation of access there,

Further expressing deep concern that thousands of Palestinians, including many children and women and elected members of the Palestinian Legislative Council, continue to be detained and held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions, including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, lack of proper medical care, denial of family visits and denial of due process, that impair their well-being, and expressing deep concern also about the ill-treatment and harassment of any Palestinian prisoners and all reports of torture,

Expressing concern about the possible consequences of the enactment by Israel, the occupying Power, of military orders regarding the detention, imprisonment and deportation of Palestinian civilians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

and recalling in this regard the prohibition under international humanitarian law of the deportation of civilians from occupied territories,

Convinced of the need for an international presence to monitor the situation, to contribute to ending the violence and protecting the Palestinian civilian population and to help the parties implement the agreements reached and, in this regard, recalling the positive contribution of the Temporary International Presence in Hebron,

Taking note of the continued efforts and tangible progress made in the security sector by the Palestinian Authority, calling upon the parties to continue cooperation that benefits both Palestinians and Israelis, in particular by promoting security and building confidence, and expressing the hope that such progress will be extended to all major population centres,

Emphasizing the right of all people in the region to the enjoyment of human rights as enshrined in the international human rights covenants,

1. *Reiterates* that all measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in violation of the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and contrary to the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, are illegal and have no validity;

2. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all practices and actions that violate the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the killing and injury of civilians, the arbitrary detention and imprisonment of civilians and the destruction and confiscation of civilian property, and that it fully respect human rights law and comply with its legal obligations in this regard;

3. *Also demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and cease immediately all measures and actions taken in violation and in breach of the Convention;

4. *Further demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, cease all of its settlement activities, the construction of the wall and any other measures aimed at altering the character, status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, all of which have, inter alia, a grave and detrimental impact on the human rights of the Palestinian people and the prospects for a peaceful settlement;

5. *Condemns* all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force by the Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians, particularly in the Gaza Strip, which have caused extensive loss of life and vast numbers of injuries, including among children, massive damage and destruction to homes, properties, vital infrastructure and public institutions, including hospitals, schools and United Nations facilities, and agricultural lands, mosques and private media institutions, and internal displacement of civilians;

6. *Also condemns* the firing of rockets against Israeli civilian areas resulting in loss of life and injury;

7. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply with its legal obligations under international law, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice and as demanded in General Assembly resolutions ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, and that it immediately cease the construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, dismantle forthwith the structure situated therein, repeal or render ineffective all legislative and regulatory acts relating thereto, and make reparation for all damage caused

by the construction of the wall, which has had a grave impact on the human rights and the socioeconomic living conditions of the Palestinian people;

8. *Reiterates* the need for respect for the territorial unity, contiguity and integrity of all of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and for guarantees of the freedom of movement of persons and goods within the Palestinian territory, including movement into and from East Jerusalem, into and from the Gaza Strip, between the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and to and from the outside world;

9. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its imposition of prolonged closures and economic and movement restrictions, including those amounting to a blockade on the Gaza Strip, and, in this regard, to fully implement the Agreement on Movement and Access and the Agreed Principles for the Rafah Crossing in order to allow for the sustained and regular movement of persons and goods and for the acceleration of long overdue reconstruction in the Gaza Strip;

10. *Urges* Member States to continue to provide emergency assistance to the Palestinian people to alleviate the financial crisis and the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation, particularly in the Gaza Strip;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to preserve and develop the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure for the provision of vital public services to the Palestinian civilian population and the promotion of human rights, including civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights;

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

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 44 to 1, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Guatemala]

19/17

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, as stated in the Charter and elaborated in the Universal

Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable instruments,

Recalling relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the General Assembly reaffirming, inter alia, the illegality of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem,

Mindful that Israel is a party to the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable de jure to Palestinian and all Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and recalling the declaration adopted by the Conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention, held in Geneva on 5 December 2001,

Considering that the transfer by the occupying Power of parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies constitutes a breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant provisions of customary law, including those codified in Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*, and its conclusion that the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, were established in breach of international law,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Affirming that the Israeli settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem, are illegal under international law and constitute very serious violations of international humanitarian law and of the human rights of the Palestinian people therein, and undermine international efforts, including the Annapolis Peace Conference of 27 November 2007 and the Paris International Donors' Conference for the Palestinian State of 17 December 2007, aimed at invigorating the peace process and establishing a viable, contiguous, sovereign and independent Palestinian State by the end of 2008,

Recalling the statement made by the Quartet on 21 September 2010 and its attachment to the implementation by the parties of their obligations under the Quartet road map to a permanent two-State solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and noting specifically its call for a freeze on all settlement activities,

Expressing its grave concern about the continuation by Israel, the occupying Power, of settlement building and expansion in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in East Jerusalem, in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions, including plans to expand and connect Israeli settlements around Occupied East Jerusalem, thus threatening the creation of a contiguous Palestinian State,

Expressing its concern that continuing Israeli settlement activity undermines the realization of a two-State solution,

Expressing grave concern about the continuing construction, contrary to international law, by Israel of the wall inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and expressing its concern in particular about the route of the wall in departure from the Armistice Line of 1949, which could prejudice future negotiations and make the two-State solution impossible to implement and which is causing the Palestinian people further humanitarian hardship,

Deeply concerned that the wall's route has been traced in such a way as to include the great majority of the Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing its concern at the failure of the Government of Israel to cooperate fully with the relevant United Nations mechanisms, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967,

1. *Welcomes* the conclusions of the Council of the European Union on the Middle East peace process of 8 December 2009, in which the Council reiterated that settlements, the separation barrier where built on occupied land, demolition of homes and evictions are illegal under international law, constitute an obstacle to peace and threaten to make a two-State solution impossible, and particularly its urgent call upon the Government of Israel to immediately end all settlement activities, in East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, and including natural growth, and to dismantle all outposts erected since March 2001;

2. *Welcomes with appreciation* the statements made by the majority of the States Members of the United Nations on the illegality of settlement activities in the Occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and reaffirming the urgent calls by the international community upon the Government of Israel to stop immediately all settlement activities, including in East Jerusalem;

3. *Condemns* the recent Israeli announcements of the construction of new housing units for Israeli settlers in the West Bank and around occupied East Jerusalem, as they undermine the peace process, constitute a threat to the two-State solution and the creation of a contiguous, sovereign and independent Palestinian State, and are in violation of international law, and calls upon the Government of Israel to reverse immediately its decisions, which would further undermine and jeopardize the ongoing efforts by the international community to reach a final settlement compliant with international legitimacy, including relevant United Nations resolutions;

4. *Expresses its grave concern* at:

(a) The continuing Israeli settlement and related activities, in violation of international law, including the expansion of settlements, the expropriation of land, the demolition of houses, the confiscation and destruction of property, the expulsion of Palestinians and the construction of bypass roads, which change the physical character and demographic composition of the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and constitute a violation of the fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, and in particular article 49 of that Convention, and recalls that settlements are a major obstacle to the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace and to the creation of an independent, viable, sovereign and democratic Palestinian State;

(b) The increasing number of newly built structures, in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012 amounting to several thousands, including a large number of permanent buildings and structures, which undermine the efforts of the international community to advance the Middle East peace process;

(c) The implications for the final status negotiations of Israel's announcement that it will retain the major settlement blocks in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including the settlements located in the Jordan Valley;

(d) The expansion of Israeli settlements and the construction of new ones on the occupied Palestinian territory rendered inaccessible behind the wall, which create a fait accompli on the ground that could well be permanent, in which case it would be tantamount to de facto annexation;

(e) The Israeli decision to establish and operate a tramway between West Jerusalem and the Israeli settlement of Pisgat Zeev, which is in clear violation of international law and relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Urges* Israel, the occupying Power:

(a) To reverse the settlement policy in the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem and the Syrian Golan, and, as a first step towards their dismantlement, to stop immediately the expansion of the existing settlements, including “natural growth” and related activities, including in East Jerusalem;

(b) To prevent any new installation of settlers in the occupied territories, including in East Jerusalem;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to take and implement serious measures, including confiscation of arms and enforcement of criminal sanctions, with the aim of preventing acts of violence by Israeli settlers, and other measures to guarantee the safety and protection of Palestinian civilians and Palestinian properties in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;

7. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with its legal obligations, as mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice;

8. *Urges* the parties to give renewed impetus to the peace process in line with the Annapolis Peace Conference and the Paris International Donors’ Conference for the Palestinian State, and to implement fully the road map endorsed by the Security Council in its resolution 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003, with the aim of reaching a comprehensive political settlement in accordance with the resolutions of the Security Council, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 446 (1979) of 22 March 1979, 452 (1979) of 20 July 1979, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980, 476 (1980) of 30 June 1980, 478 (1980) of 20 August 1980, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 1850 (2008) of 16 December 2008, and other relevant United Nations resolutions, the principles of the Peace Conference on the Middle East, held in Madrid on 30 October 1991, the Oslo Accords, the Arab Peace initiative and subsequent agreements, which will allow two States, Israel and Palestine, to live in peace and security;

9. *Decides* to dispatch an independent international fact-finding mission, to be appointed by the President of the Human Rights Council, to investigate the implications of the Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, with a mandate ending on submission of a report to the Council, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to obstruct the process of investigation and to cooperate fully with the mission;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all administrative, technical and logistical assistance to enable the mission to fulfil its mandate promptly and efficiently;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution at its twentieth session;

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

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 36 to 1, with 10 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain]

19/18

Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling its relevant resolutions, including resolution S-9/1, adopted on 12 January 2009, and resolution S-12/1, adopted on 16 October 2010, in follow-up to the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,²⁶

Recalling also relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 64/10, adopted on 5 November 2009, and 64/254, adopted on 26 February 2010, in follow-up to the report of the Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict,

Recalling further the relevant rules and principles of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, in particular the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, which is applicable to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other international human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Reaffirming the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law and international human rights law,

Reiterating the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and reaffirming the obligation to ensure the protection of civilians in armed conflict,

Stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to prevent impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations and promote peace,

Convinced that achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the question of Palestine, the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, is imperative for the attainment of comprehensive, just and lasting peace and stability in the Middle East,

²⁶ A/HRC/12/48.

1. *Reiterates its call* upon all concerned parties, including United Nations bodies, to ensure their full and immediate implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the United Nations Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, in accordance with their respective mandates;

2. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Government of Switzerland, in its capacity as depositary of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, to reconvene, as soon as possible, a conference of High Contracting Parties to the Fourth Geneva Convention on measures to enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to ensure its respect in accordance with common article 1, bearing in mind the statement adopted on 15 July 1999, as well as the reconvening of the conference and the declaration adopted on 5 December 2001, and recommends that the Government of Switzerland continue to pursue its efforts with the aim of resuming the above-mentioned conference as soon as possible;

3. *Recommends* that the General Assembly consider launching an urgent discussion on the legality of the use of certain munitions, with the assistance of the relevant international organizations and specialized agencies and interested parties and stakeholders, as recommended by the Fact-Finding Mission in its report;

4. *Also recommends* that the General Assembly remain apprised of the matter until it is satisfied that appropriate action with regard to implementing the recommendations made by the Fact-Finding Mission in its report has been taken at the domestic or international level to ensure justice for victims and accountability for perpetrators, and also remain ready to consider whether additional action within its powers is required in the interests of justice;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-first session, a comprehensive report on the progress made in the implementation of the recommendations of the Fact-Finding Mission, particularly by providing detailed information on non-implementation and the measures required to ensure the most adequate and effective implementation of the recommendations by all parties concerned, including United Nations bodies, in accordance with section B, paragraph 3, of Council resolution S-12/1;

6. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its twentieth session, a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution;

7. *Decides* to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution at its twentieth session.

*53rd meeting
22 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 29 to 1, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Chile, China, Congo, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Austria, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Uruguay]

19/19**Protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism***The Human Rights Council,*

Reaffirming Human Rights Council decision 2/112 of 27 November 2006 and Council resolutions 6/28 of 14 December 2007, 7/7 of 27 March 2008, 10/15 of 26 March 2009 and 13/26 of 26 March 2010, and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 2003/68 of 25 April 2003, 2004/87 of 21 April 2004 and 2005/80 of 21 April 2005, and recalling General Assembly resolutions 57/219 of 18 December 2002, 58/187 of 22 December 2003, 59/191 of 20 December 2004, 60/158 of 16 December 2005, 61/171 of 19 December 2006, 62/159 of 18 December 2007, 63/185 of 18 December 2008, 64/168 of 18 December 2009, 65/221 of 21 December 2010, and 66/171 of 19 December 2011, and welcoming the efforts of all relevant stakeholders to implement those resolutions,

1. *Calls upon* States to ensure that any measure taken to counter terrorism complies with international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

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

3. *Reaffirms* its unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods, practices and financing of terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, wherever and by whomsoever committed, regardless of their motivation, as criminal and unjustifiable, and renews its commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism and, in that regard, calls upon States and other relevant actors, as appropriate, to continue to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which reaffirm, inter alia, respect for human rights for all and the rule of law to be the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism;

4. *Deeply deplores* the suffering caused by terrorism to the victims and their families, and expresses its profound solidarity with them, and stresses the importance of providing them with proper support and assistance;

5. *Welcomes* the holding, on 1 June 2011 and pursuant to decision 16/116 of the Human Rights Council, of a panel discussion on the issue of human rights of victims of terrorism, which raised awareness of the importance of addressing the human rights of victims of terrorism in the determined effort by the international community to deal with the scourge of terrorism and as part of a comprehensive counter-terrorism policy that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms;

6. *Reaffirms* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group;

7. *Recognizes* the work carried out by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

8. *Acknowledges* that the active participation of civil society can reinforce ongoing governmental efforts to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism;

9. *Calls upon* States, while countering terrorism, to ensure that any person whose human rights or fundamental freedoms have been violated has access to an effective remedy and that victims will receive adequate, effective and prompt reparations where appropriate, including by bringing to justice those responsible for such violations;

10. *Urges* States, while countering terrorism, to protect all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, bearing in mind that certain counter-terrorism measures may have an impact on the enjoyment of those rights;

11. *Calls upon* States, while countering terrorism, to safeguard the right to privacy in accordance with international law, and urges them to take measures to ensure that interferences with the right to privacy are regulated by law, subject to effective oversight and appropriate redress, including through judicial review or other means;

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

13. *Stresses* that all measures used in the fight against terrorism, including the profiling of individuals and the use of diplomatic assurances, memorandums of understanding and other transfer agreements or arrangements, must be in compliance with the obligations of States under international law, including international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law;

14. *Urges* States, while countering terrorism, to respect the rights to be equal before the courts and tribunals and to a fair trial, as provided for by international law, including international human rights law, such as article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and, as applicable, international humanitarian law and refugee law;

15. *Reiterates* the concerns expressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/168 with regard to measures that can undermine human rights and the rule of law, and urges all States to take all necessary steps to ensure that persons deprived of their liberty, regardless of the place of arrest or detention, enjoy the guarantees to which they are entitled under international law, including the review of their detention and other fundamental judicial guarantees;

16. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism;²⁷

17. *Takes note* of the compilation of good practices on legal and institutional frameworks and measures that ensure respect for human rights by intelligence agencies

²⁷ A/HRC/16/51.

while countering terrorism,²⁸ and appreciates the work of the Special Rapporteur in its elaboration at the request of the Human Rights Council;²⁹

18. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur, in accordance with his mandate, to continue to gather, request, receive and exchange information on alleged violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and to report regularly to the Human Rights Council;

19. *Requests* all States to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur in the performance of the tasks and duties mandated, including by reacting promptly to the urgent appeals and providing the information requested, and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to requests by the Special Rapporteur to visit their countries;

20. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism,³⁰ as well as the work to implement the mandate given to her by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 2005/80 and the General Assembly in its resolution 60/158 on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and requests the High Commissioner to continue her efforts in this regard;

21. *Encourages* the United Nations, bodies, agencies, funds and programmes involved in supporting counter-terrorism efforts to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as due process and the rule of law, while countering terrorism;

22. *Requests* the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur to contribute further, appropriately, to the ongoing discussion regarding the efforts of States Members of the United Nations to assure adequate human rights guarantees to ensure fair and clear procedures, in particular with regard to placing on and removing individuals and entities from terrorism-related sanctions lists;

23. *Recalls* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 66/171, recognized the need to continue ensuring that fair and clear procedures under the United Nations terrorism-related sanctions regime are strengthened in order to enhance their efficiency and transparency, and welcomed and encouraged the ongoing efforts of the Security Council in support of these objectives, including by supporting the enhanced role of the office of the ombudsperson and continuing to review all the names of individuals and entities in the regime, while emphasizing the importance of these sanctions in countering terrorism;

24. *Stresses the importance* that relevant United Nations bodies and entities and international, regional and subregional organizations, in particular those that are participating in the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which provide technical assistance relating to the prevention and suppression of terrorism to consenting States, include, as appropriate and where consistent with their mandates, the respect of international human rights law and, as applicable, international humanitarian law and refugee law, as well as the rule of law, as an important element of technical assistance that they offer to States related to counter-terrorism, including by drawing on the advice of, and otherwise ensuring the ongoing dialogue with, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council within their mandates and the Office of the High Commissioner and relevant stakeholders;

²⁸ A/HRC/14/46.

²⁹ See Human Rights Council resolution 10/15.

³⁰ A/HRC/16/50.

25. *Requests* the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur to present their reports, bearing in mind the content of the present resolution, to the Human Rights Council under agenda item 3, in conformity with its annual programme of work.

54th meeting
23 March 2012

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/20

The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement of all peoples and all nations and also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 7/11 of 27 March 2008 and all other resolutions relevant to the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Welcoming the resolve of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and the commitment made by all States in the 2005 World Summit Outcome³¹ to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels, and noting with interest the provisions of the Convention that have led to the development of a mechanism among States parties to review their progress in combating corruption,

Noting the ongoing work by several important initiatives towards the deepening of good governance practices at the national, regional and international levels,

Recognizing the importance of a conducive environment, at both the national and international levels, for the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the mutually reinforcing relationship between good governance and human rights,

Recognizing also that transparent, responsible, accountable, open and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, is the foundation on which good governance rests, and that such a foundation is one of the indispensable conditions for the full realization of human rights, including the right to development,

Stressing that good governance at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger and, in this context, reaffirming the Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the outcome of the 2010 High-level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing the increasing awareness in the international community of the detrimental impact of widespread corruption on human rights through both the weakening of institutions and the erosion of public trust in government, as well as through the impairment of the ability of Governments to fulfil all their human rights obligations,

³¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Realizing that the fight against corruption at all levels plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the process of creating an environment conducive to their full enjoyment,

Recognizing that effective anti-corruption measures and the protection of human rights, including through strengthening transparency and accountability in government, are mutually reinforcing,

Noting with interest the outcome of the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Doha in 2009, and in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2011,

Stressing the importance of policy coherence and coordination in intergovernmental processes in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights, on the one hand, and of anti-corruption initiatives, on the other,

Stressing also the importance of developing and implementing national legislation on the promotion of access to information and of strengthening the administration of justice, transparency, accountability and good governance at all levels,

Reaffirming the right of every citizen to have access, in general terms of equality, to public service in his/her country as enshrined in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 25 (c) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recognizing that a professional, accountable and transparent public service upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity is one of the essential components of good governance,

Recognizing also that the knowledge, training and awareness of public servants, as well as the promotion of a human rights culture within the public service, play a vital role in promoting respect for and the realization of human rights in society,

1. *Welcomes* the growing trend towards the universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourages States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying this important international instrument;

2. *Underlines* that the primary responsibility lies with States at the national level, including through their Constitutional provisions and other enabling legislation, consistent with their international obligations, to ensure that professional public services uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and are predicated on good governance principles, including impartiality, rule of law, transparency, accountability and combating corruption, and stresses the importance of human rights training and education in this regard;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure the upholding of the integrity of the United Nations system in its service of humanity, and improved coordination between United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, with a view to ensuring that the United Nations system continues to improve the quality of its work at all levels, including in support of objectives and priorities at the national level;

4. *Invites* all States, United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, as well as national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, to provide the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with information on good practices and their views regarding the organization, training and education of the public service, to ensure the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights, impartiality, accountability, transparency and the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as well as other activities developed to assist and support the public service at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Requests* the High Commissioner to prepare, in consultation with relevant United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, and to present to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session, a report outlining the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, including a compilation of good practices based on information received from the above-mentioned stakeholders.

54th meeting
23 March 2012

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/21

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights, and reaffirming previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, the most recent being Human Rights Council resolution 16/24 of 25 March 2011 and General Assembly resolution 66/230 of 24 December 2011,

Welcoming the work and reports of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar,³² as well as the cooperation of the Government of Myanmar with the Special Rapporteur, including the facilitation of his visits to the country from 21 to 25 August 2011 and from 31 January to 5 February 2012,

Reaffirming that it is the responsibility of the Government of Myanmar to ensure the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of the people of Myanmar, reiterating that many serious human rights concerns remain and should be addressed, and acknowledging the publicly stated commitment of the President of Myanmar in this regard,

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, and stressing that the mandate holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Welcomes* the recent positive developments in Myanmar and acknowledges the stated commitment of the Government of Myanmar to continue democratization and national reconciliation processes, while emphasizing that those processes should aim at the achievement of the full restoration of democracy, enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and accountability for all violations of human rights;

2. *Also welcomes* the engagement of the Government of Myanmar with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and opposition parties, including through the amendment of relevant electoral laws, as an important step towards enabling wider participation of political parties, including the National League for Democracy, in the by-elections of 1 April 2012, and urges the Government to work towards establishing a credible, inclusive and sustained process of close and ongoing dialogue with the democratic opposition and political, ethnic and civil society groups and actors leading to national reconciliation and lasting peace in Myanmar;

³² A/66/365 and A/HRC/19/67.

3. *Expresses grave concern* at remaining serious human rights violations, and strongly calls upon the Government of Myanmar to put an end to all violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, to undertake, without delay and with appropriate attention from the United Nations, a full, transparent and independent investigation into all reports of such violations, past and present, and to bring to justice those responsible in order to end impunity for such acts;

4. *Welcomes* the release of a substantial number of prisoners of conscience, while expressing concern over reports on the conditions attached to some of the releases, and strongly urges the Government of Myanmar to desist from further politically motivated arrests, to establish a dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, including the Special Rapporteur, in order to clarify the status and the number of the remaining prisoners of conscience, and to release such prisoners, without delay or conditions, and allow their full participation in the political process;

5. *Urges* the Government of Myanmar to ensure that the by-elections of 1 April are free, inclusive, transparent and fair, from the campaign period and the advance voting stage through to vote counting and the announcement of results, including by seeking technical cooperation and the presence of international election observers and drawing lessons from the 2010 elections;

6. *Notes with appreciation* as a first step the invitation of the Government of Myanmar extended to States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the secretariat of the Association, the diplomatic corps based in Yangon, the United Nations and regional and international organizations to participate in an observation tour of the by-elections of 1 April;

7. *Welcomes* the increasing space for political activity, assembly, speech and the press and the stated intention of the Government of Myanmar to carry out media reform and open up space for the media, and strongly calls upon the Government to take further steps to ensure the freedom of assembly, association, movement and expression for all people in Myanmar;

8. *Also welcomes* the invitation extended to the International Committee of the Red Cross to provide technical assistance in three prisons, and urges the Government of Myanmar to allow it to expand activities in accordance with its mandate, in particular by granting access to persons detained and to areas of internal armed conflict;

9. *Expresses its serious concern* at the continuing discrimination, human rights violations, violence, displacement and economic deprivation affecting numerous ethnic and religious minorities, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to take immediate action to bring about an improvement in their respective situations, and in particular to recognize the right of members of the Rohingya ethnic minority in Northern Rakhine State to nationality and to protect all of their human rights;

10. *Welcomes* the continuation of peace talks between the Government of Myanmar and some ethnic groups and the establishment of ceasefires with a number of them, while expressing deep concern about the continuing armed conflict in some ethnic areas, especially in Kachin State and the northern Shan State, and calls upon the authorities and all armed groups to protect the civilian population and to respect their human rights, in particular those of children and women, in all parts of the country, and to use political means to maintain or re-establish ceasefire agreements with a view to ending armed conflicts in the country, with an inclusive political process also being a vital step towards ensuring long-term peace and national reconciliation;

11. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to continue to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur and those received during the universal

periodic review, as well as the calls contained in the above-mentioned Human Rights Council and General Assembly resolutions, in particular:

(a) To make national efforts to establish truth, justice and accountability measures for gross and systematic human rights violations, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including victims of those violations, bearing in mind that such measures are fundamental for national reconciliation and democratic transition;

(b) To urgently address the continued reports of attacks against civilian populations, extrajudicial killings, internal displacement, the use of human shields and forced labour, confiscation and destruction of property, and sexual violence in ethnic conflict areas, while continuing to express concern that previous calls to end impunity have not been heeded;

(c) To accelerate and conclude efforts for an independent, inclusive and comprehensive review of compliance of the Constitution and all national legislation with international human rights law while engaging fully with all relevant stakeholders;

(d) To address, as a matter of urgency and through proper investigations, consistent reports of torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, and to improve detention and prison conditions;

(e) To allow human rights defenders to pursue safely, and in an unrestricted manner, activities consistent with the exercise of internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(f) To cooperate fully with humanitarian organizations in order to ensure full and unhindered humanitarian access to all parts of Myanmar, including conflict and border areas, as well as the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all persons in need, including displaced persons and refugees;

(g) To extend invitations to thematic special procedures, to continue acceding to the remaining international core human rights treaties, and to consolidate dialogue and cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to ensuring full respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

12. *Strongly calls for* an immediate end to the continuing recruitment and use of child soldiers by all parties, welcomes the recent engagement of the Government of Myanmar on this issue, and urges the Government to intensify measures to ensure the protection of children from armed conflict, to give due regard to the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and to pursue full collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, including by signing, without delay, a plan of action with the United Nations, facilitating dialogue with other parties listed in the annual report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict,³³ and granting unhindered access to all areas where children are recruited;

13. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to ensure the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary and the independence of lawyers, and to guarantee due process of law, and emphasizes to this end the need to pay due attention to judicial reforms, as well as to capacity-building and the training of judges and lawyers to address continuing concerns;

14. *Notes with interest* the establishment of the Myanmar national human rights commission, and urges the Government of Myanmar to ensure the commission's independent, free, credible and effective functioning, in accordance with the principles

³³ A/HRC/18/38.

relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), including by seeking technical assistance from the Office of the High Commissioner and the international community;

15. *Welcomes* the prolongation, in January 2012, of the Supplementary Understanding between the International Labour Organization and the Government of Myanmar, the signing of a memorandum of understanding for a joint strategy of action on the elimination of forced labour by 2015, the joint awareness-raising activities and other reported progress on changes in law and practice to eliminate the use of forced labour, including the repeal of the Village Act and the Towns Act and their replacement with the Ward or Village Tract Administration Act, and calls on the Government to explicitly make illegal the use of forced labour, noting that new legislation has not yet done so, and for the Government to intensify its cooperation with the International Labour Office, with a view to extending action throughout the country against the continued practice of forced labour and effectively prosecuting forced labour perpetrators;

16. *Also welcomes* the coming into force of the Labour Organizations Law and the prior constructive consultation thereon with the International Labour Organization, and encourages its full implementation, including by means of the reversal or removal of any existing legislation and orders that pose obstacles to the full enjoyment of internationally recognized labour rights;

17. *Encourages* the international community to continue to support effectively the Government of Myanmar in the fulfilment of its international human rights obligations and commitments, the implementation of the democratic transitional process, and in its economic and social development;

18. *Decides* to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1992/58 of 3 March 1992 and 2005/10 of 14 April 2005, and Human Rights Council resolutions 7/32 of 28 March 2008, 10/27 of 27 March 2009, 13/25 of 26 March 2010 and 16/24 of 25 March 2011, and, in addition, invites the Special Rapporteur to include in his next report, inter alia, further recommendations on the needs of Myanmar, including with regard to technical assistance and capacity-building;

19. *Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to continue its cooperation with the Special Rapporteur in the exercise of his mandate, including by facilitating further visits, and calls upon the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the assistance and resources necessary to enable him to discharge his mandate fully;

20. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit a progress report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, and to the Human Rights Council in accordance with its annual programme of work;

21. *Expresses its strong support* for the good offices mission and commitment of the Secretary-General, and calls upon the Government of Myanmar to ensure full cooperation with the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser on Myanmar.

*54th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/22

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that all States are bound to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 66/176 of 19 December 2011 and 66/253 of 16 February 2012, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions S-16/1 of 29 April 2011, S-17/1 of 22 August 2011, S-18/1 of 2 December 2011 and 19/1 of 1 March 2012,

Deploing the refusal of the Syrian authorities to implement the above-mentioned resolutions, and the lack of cooperation with the commission of inquiry, established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-17/1, including the continued denial of access to the country,

Deploing also the escalation of violence that has led to a grave and ongoing human rights crisis and increased human suffering, and the fact that the Syrian authorities have manifestly failed in their responsibility to protect the Syrian population,

Appalled at the ongoing and systematic brutal human rights violations by the Syrian authorities against the Syrian people,

Recalling the statements made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights before the Security Council that crimes against humanity are likely to have been committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, and noting her encouragement to the Security Council to refer the situation to the International Criminal Court,

Welcoming all efforts, decisions and measures of the League of Arab States to address all aspects of the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the steps taken by the League to ensure the implementation of its Plan of Action, including its decisions of 2 November 2011 and 22 January, 12 February and 10 March 2012,

Welcoming also the appointment of the joint special envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States on the Syrian crisis, who is providing its good offices aimed at bringing an end to all violence and human rights violations and at promoting a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis,

Welcoming further the holding of the first meeting of the Group of Friends of the Syrian People on 24 February 2012 in Tunis, and the outcome as reflected in the Chairman's conclusions,

Reaffirming that all involved in the current crisis must show respect for and act in conformity with human rights,

Reaffirming also its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic and to the principles of the Charter,

1. *Welcomes* both reports of the commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1³⁴ and the recommendations made therein, and expresses profound concern about the commission's findings that Government forces have committed widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations that may amount to

³⁴ A/HRC/S-17/2/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/69.

crimes against humanity with the apparent knowledge and consent of the highest levels of the State;

2. *Condemns in the strongest terms:*

(a) The sharply escalating widespread, systematic and gross violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms perpetrated by the Syrian authorities, such as arbitrary executions, excessive use of force and the killing and persecution of protesters, refugees, human rights defenders and journalists, including recent deaths of Syrian and foreign journalists, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances, torture and ill-treatment, including of adolescents and children;

(b) The attacks against civilians in cities and villages across the country, including the artillery bombardments of residential areas, the levels of excessive and indiscriminate force used consistently by units of the Syrian armed forces and diverse security forces, and the coordinated nature of these attacks, noting that there is credible and consistent evidence that these actions have been conducted on the orders of the authorities, including high-ranking military officers;

(c) The extensive violations of children's rights committed by the Syrian authorities, including the killing of children during demonstrations and the widespread practice of arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment;

(d) The sexual violence committed by the Syrian authorities, including against male detainees and children;

(e) The deliberate destruction of hospitals and clinics, the obstruction and denial of medical assistance to the injured and sick, and the raids and killing of wounded protesters in both public and private hospitals;

3. *Strongly urges* the Syrian authorities to put an immediate end to all violence and all human rights violations;

4. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities meet their responsibility to protect their population;

5. *Expresses its grave concern* at the prevailing systemic impunity for human rights violations and its entrenchment in legislation, awarding immunity for State Government officials;

6. *Stresses* that the widespread and systematic use of violence against Syrian civilians is contrary to international criminal law and requires that perpetrators be brought to justice;

7. *Acknowledges and is deeply troubled* by the commission of inquiry's finding that there is a reliable body of evidence that provides reasonable grounds to believe that particular individuals, including commanding officers and officials at the highest levels of Government, bear responsibility for crimes against humanity and other gross human rights violations;

8. *Stresses* the need to conduct an international, transparent, independent and prompt investigation into violations of international law with a view to hold to account those responsible for widespread, systematic and gross human rights violations, including those violations that may amount to crimes against humanity;

9. *Expresses deep concern* at the humanitarian situation and urges the Syrian authorities to ensure timely, safe and unhindered access for all humanitarian actors and to ensure the safe passage of humanitarian and medical supplies into the country;

10. *Invites* all relevant United Nations agencies, in particular the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to provide support to Syrian refugees and their host countries;

11. *Demands* that the Syrian authorities:

(a) Respect the popular will, aspirations and demands of the Syrian people;

(b) Put an immediate end to all attacks against journalists, fully respect freedom of expression in line with international obligations, allow independent and international media to operate in the Syrian Arab Republic without restrictions, harassment, intimidation or risk to life, and ensure adequate protection for journalists;

(c) Take immediate steps to ensure the safety of foreign nationals in the Syrian Arab Republic, including refugees and diplomatic staff, as well as the protection of their property;

(d) Lift, without delay, the blockade of Homs, Dar'a, Zabadani and all other cities under siege;

12. *Commends and supports* the efforts and measures of the League of Arab States, and calls upon the Syrian authorities to implement the League's Plan of Action of 2 November 2011 in its entirety, as well as its decisions, without further delay;

13. *Demands* that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the League of Arab States of 2 November and its decisions of 22 January and 12 February 2012, without delay:

(a) Cease all violence and protect its population;

(b) Release all persons detained arbitrarily due to the recent incidents;

(c) Withdraw all Syrian military and armed forces from cities and towns, and return them to their original home barracks;

(d) Guarantee the freedom of peaceful demonstrations;

(e) Allow full and unhindered access and movement for all relevant institutions of the League of Arab States and Arab and international media in all parts of the Syrian Arab Republic to determine the truth about the situation on the ground and monitor the incidents taking place;

14. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the commission of inquiry established by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-17/1, and requests the commission to continue its work, to provide an oral update to the Council at an interactive dialogue at its twentieth session and to present also a written updated report at an interactive dialogue at its twenty-first session;

15. *Requests* the commission of inquiry to conduct and continuously update a mapping exercise of gross violations of human rights since March 2011, including an assessment of casualty figures, and to publish it periodically;

16. *Invites* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to facilitate the safe and secure storage of information and evidence, gathered by the commission of inquiry, on violations and abuses of international human rights law in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011;

17. *Calls on* the Syrian authorities to cooperate fully with the commission of inquiry, including by granting it unhindered access to the country;

18. *Repeats its call* upon the Syrian authorities to cooperate with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and with the Office of the High Commissioner,

including through the establishment of a field presence with a mandate to protect and promote human rights;

19. *Invites* the Secretary-General to take the measures necessary to support the efforts of the League of Arab States, if requested, to contribute to a peaceful solution to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the League's decisions;

20. *Recommends* that the main bodies of the United Nations urgently consider the reports of the commission of inquiry and take appropriate action to address human rights violations, as well as crimes against humanity that may have been committed;

21. *Decides* to transmit the updated reports of the commission of inquiry to all relevant United Nations bodies and the Secretary-General for appropriate action, and requests the Secretary-General to present a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its twentieth and twenty-first sessions;

22. *Also decides* to remain seized of the matter and to consider further appropriate steps to be taken.

*54th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 41 to 3, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Guatemala, Hungary, India,* Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay

Against:

China, Cuba, Russian Federation

Abstaining:

Ecuador, Uganda]

19/23 Forum on Minority Issues

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities adopted by consensus by the General Assembly by its resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, and taking into consideration article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as other relevant existing international standards and national legislation,

Recalling also all resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, in particular Council resolution 6/15 of 28

* The representative of India subsequently stated that there had been an error and that it had intended to abstain.

September 2007, in which the Council established the Forum on Minority Issues and decided to review its work after four years,

Noting that 2012 marks the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,

Affirming that the above-mentioned anniversary offers an important opportunity to reflect on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as on achievements, best practices and challenges with regard to the implementation of the Declaration,

Commending the Independent Expert on minority issues for the work done and the important role in raising the level of awareness of, and in giving added visibility to, the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and for the ongoing efforts to promote and protect their rights in order to ensure equitable development and peaceful and stable societies, including through close cooperation with Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms and non-governmental organizations,

Emphasizing the need for reinforced efforts to meet the goal of the full realization of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, including by addressing their economic and social conditions and marginalization, as well as to end any type of discrimination against them,

Affirming that effective measures and the creation of favourable conditions for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, ensuring effective non-discrimination and equality for all, as well as full and effective participation in matters affecting them, contribute to the prevention and peaceful solution of human rights problems and situations involving minorities,

Underlining the need to pay specific attention to the negative impact of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the situation of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and drawing attention to the relevant provisions of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, including the provisions on forms of multiple discrimination,

Emphasizing the importance of dialogue among all relevant stakeholders on the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities as an integral part of the development of society as a whole, including the sharing of best practices, such as for the promotion of mutual understanding of minority issues, managing diversity by recognizing plural identities, and promoting inclusive and stable societies, as well as social cohesion therein,

Emphasizing also the importance of national processes aimed at promoting and strengthening dialogue between all relevant stakeholders on issues relating to the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities with a view to ensuring the realization of their rights without discrimination and to help build stable societies,

Emphasizing further the important role that national institutions can play in the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as well as in early warning and awareness-raising measures to address problems regarding minority situations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Independent Expert on minority issues,³⁵ which contains, inter alia, an update on the work of the Forum on Minority Issues;
2. *Also takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities;³⁶
3. *Further takes note* of the completion of the first four sessions of the Forum on Minority Issues, addressing the right to education, the right to effective political participation, the right to effective participation in economic life and the rights of minority women and girls and which, through the widespread participation of stakeholders, has provided an important platform for promoting dialogue on these topics, and encourages States to take into consideration, as appropriate, relevant recommendations of the Forum;
4. *Commends* the Forum for its contribution to the efforts of the High Commissioner to improve cooperation among United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes on activities relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to minorities, including at the regional level, and expresses its expectation that the Forum will continue to contribute to those efforts;
5. *Reaffirms* the role of the Forum as an important platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which provides thematic contributions and expertise to the work of the Independent Expert and identifies best practices, challenges, opportunities and initiatives for the further implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;
6. *Decides* that the Forum shall remain open to the participation of States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on minority issues and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the Forum shall also remain open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Human Rights Council, which will provide for the timely information on participation and consultations with States concerned;
7. *Invites* States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, as well as academics and experts on minority issues, to continue to participate actively in the sessions of the Forum;
8. *Decides* that the Forum shall continue to meet annually for two working days allocated to thematic discussions;
9. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to continue to appoint for each session, on the basis of regional rotation, and in consultation with regional groups, a chairperson of the Forum among experts on minority issues, nominated by members and observers of the Council; the chairperson, serving in his/her personal capacity, shall be

³⁵ A/HRC/19/56.

³⁶ A/HRC/19/27.

responsible for the preparation of a summary of the discussion of the Forum, to be made available to all participants of the Forum;

10. *Decides* that the Independent Expert shall continue to guide the work of the Forum and prepare its annual meetings, and invites him/her to report on the thematic recommendations of the Forum and make recommendations for future thematic subjects, for consideration by the Human Rights Council;

11. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide all the necessary support to facilitate, in a transparent manner, the convening of the Forum and the participation of relevant stakeholders from every region in its meetings, giving particular attention to ensuring the broadest possible and equitable participation, including, in particular, the representation of women;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Forum, from within existing resources of the United Nations, with all the services and facilities necessary to fulfil its mandate;

13. *Invites* the High Commissioner to continue to seek voluntary contributions to the Forum to facilitate participation, in particular of those coming from developing countries, and in doing so to pay particular attention to ensuring the participation of young people and women;

14. *Decides* to continue consideration of this important matter at a future session in conformity with its annual programme of work.

*54th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/24 The Social Forum

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions and decisions adopted on the Social Forum by the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, as well as by the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 6/13 of 28 September 2007, 10/4 of 25 March 2009, 10/29 of 27 March 2009, 13/17 of 25 March 2010 and 16/26 of 25 March 2011,

Bearing in mind that the reduction of poverty and the elimination of extreme poverty remain an ethical and moral imperative of humankind, based on the respect for human dignity,

Reaffirming the unique nature within the United Nations of the Social Forum, which makes possible a dialogue and an exchange between the representatives of Member States and civil society, including grass-roots organizations and intergovernmental organizations, and stressing that the current reform of the United Nations should take into account the contribution of the Forum as a vital space for open and fruitful dialogue on issues linked with the national and international environment needed for the promotion of the enjoyment of all human rights by all,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Chairman-Rapporteur of the 2011 Social Forum;³⁷
2. *Also takes note* of the conclusions and recommendations of the 2011 Social Forum, and encourages States, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, trade unions and other relevant actors to take them into account when designing and implementing programmes and strategies;
3. *Reaffirms* the Social Forum as a unique space for interactive dialogue between the United Nations human rights machinery and various stakeholders, including the contribution of civil society and grass-roots organizations, and stresses the need to ensure greater participation of grass-roots organizations and of those living in poverty, particularly women, especially from developing countries, in the sessions of the Forum and, to this end, considers, inter alia, the possibility of the establishment of a voluntary United Nations fund to contribute to providing resources to these organizations so that they may participate in and contribute to the deliberations at future sessions;
4. *Underlines* the importance of coordinated efforts at the national, regional and international levels for the promotion of social cohesion based on the principles of social justice, equity and solidarity and of addressing the social dimension and challenges of the ongoing globalization process and the negative impact of the current economic and financial crises;
5. *Stresses* the need for increased and sustained participation and contribution of civil society and all other relevant actors listed in the present resolution to the promotion and effective realization of the right to development;
6. *Decides* that the Social Forum will meet for three working days in 2012, in Geneva, on dates suitable for the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and of the broadest possible range of other stakeholders, especially from developing countries, and should focus on the theme “People-centred development and globalization”, and in particular:
 - (a) People-centred development and global governance in an era of multiple challenges and social transformation;
 - (b) Promoting measures and actions for participatory development and democratic governance, including through the role of civil society and social movements at the grass-roots, local and national levels;
 - (c) Enhancing a globally enabling environment for development, including through the international financial system, which should support sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and hunger and poverty eradication in developing countries, while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development;
7. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint, as early as possible, from candidates nominated by regional groups, the Chairperson-Rapporteur for the 2012 Social Forum, bearing in mind the principle of regional rotation;
8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to consult all actors identified in the present resolution on the issues referred to in paragraph 6 above, and to submit a report as a background contribution for the dialogues and debates held at the 2012 Social Forum;

³⁷ A/HRC/19/70.

9. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to facilitate participation in the 2012 Social Forum in order to contribute to interactive dialogues and debate at the Forum, and to assist the Chairperson-Rapporteur as resource persons, of up to 10 experts, including representatives from civil society and grass-roots organizations in developing countries;

10. *Decides* that the Social Forum will remain open to the participation of representatives of States Members of the United Nations and all other interested stakeholders, such as intergovernmental organizations, different components of the United Nations system, especially mandate holders of thematic procedures and mechanisms of the human rights machinery, regional economic commissions and specialized agencies and organizations, as well as representatives designated by human rights national institutions and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, and shall also be open to other non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including newly emerging actors, such as small groups and rural and urban associations from the North and the South, anti-poverty groups, peasants' and farmers' organizations and their national and international associations, voluntary organizations, environmental organizations and activists, youth associations, community organizations, trade unions and associations of workers, as well as representatives of the private sector, on the basis of arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and practices observed by the Commission on Human Rights, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, while ensuring the most effective contribution of these entities;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to seek effective means of ensuring consultation and the broadest possible participation of representatives from every region, especially those from developing countries, in the Social Forum, including by establishing partnerships with non-governmental organizations, the private sector and international organizations;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to disseminate information about the Social Forum, to invite relevant individuals and organizations to the Forum and to take all practical measures required for the success of this initiative;

13. *Invites* the 2012 Social Forum to submit a report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the Human Rights Council;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Social Forum with all the services and facilities necessary to fulfil its activities, and requests the High Commissioner to provide all the support necessary to facilitate the convening and proceedings of the Forum;

15. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue under the relevant agenda item when the report of the 2012 Social Forum is submitted to the Human Rights Council.

*54th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/25

Combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief

The Human Rights Council,

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

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolution 16/18 of 24 March 2011 and General Assembly resolution 66/167 of 19 December 2011,

Welcoming the panel discussion on strengthened international efforts to foster a global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs, held during the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 16/18,

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

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

Reaffirming further the positive role that the exercise of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can play in strengthening democracy and combating religious intolerance,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2. *Expresses its concern* that incidents of religious intolerance, discrimination and related violence, as well as of negative stereotyping of individuals on the basis of religion or belief, continue to rise around the world, and condemns, in this context, any advocacy of religious hatred against individuals that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, and urges States to take effective measures, as set forth in the present resolution, consistent with their obligations under international human rights law, to address and combat such incidents;

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

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

5. *Notes* the speech given by Secretary-General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference at the fifteenth session of the Human Rights Council, and draws on his call on States to take the following actions to foster a domestic environment of religious tolerance, peace and respect, by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. *Calls upon* all States:

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

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

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

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

7. *Encourages* States to consider providing updates on efforts made in this regard as part of ongoing reporting to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

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

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

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/26

Terms of reference for the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 and the outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Council annexed thereto, and in particular paragraph 62 thereof,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 65/281 of 17 June 2011 on the review of the Human Rights Council,

1. *Decides* to establish the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council;

2. *Also decides* that the Trust Fund will support activities designed to enhance the institutional and human capacity of least developed countries and small island developing States, to enable their delegations to participate more fully in the work of the Human Rights Council, upon their request, and to encourage their effective and informed participation in consultative and decision-making processes, including negotiation sessions;

3. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make arrangements for the operationalization of the Trust Fund;

4. *Decides* that the Trust Fund will be used to support the participation of least developed countries and small island developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, by providing funding for:

(a) Training and capacity-building, including e-learning: in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and/or relevant academic/training institutions, the Trust Fund will support the development of, and the participation of least developed countries and small island developing States in, targeted training courses for officials on the international human rights system, international human rights law and the rules and functioning of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms;

(b) Travel and accommodation for Government officials to participate in Human Rights Council sessions: the Trust Fund will help least developed countries and small island developing States, represented or not represented in Geneva, to participate in Council sessions or to bring in supplementary support;

(c) Fellowship programmes: such programmes will cover subsistence costs to allow officials from least developed countries and small island developing States to undertake three-month work placements in their respective delegations to the Human Rights Council;

(d) Induction training: the Trust Fund will support the organization, by the Office of the High Commissioner, of induction training sessions for diplomats from least developed countries and small island developing States assigned to cover the sessions of the Human Rights Council and the multilateral human rights system; training sessions will be organized to coincide with the main periods of arrival and departure from Geneva. During the sessions, diplomats will receive focused, practical training on the work procedure of the Council and its mechanisms.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/27

The human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the strengthening of technical cooperation and advisory services

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling also Council resolutions 5/1 of 18 June 2007, 7/20 of 27 March 2008 and S-8/1 of 1 December 2008,

Recalling further Council resolutions 10/33 of 27 March 2009 and 13/22 of 26 March 2010, as well as Council resolution 16/35 of 25 March 2011, in which the Council called upon the international community to support the national efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its institutions with a view to improving the human rights situation, and to respond to its requests for technical assistance,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as obligations under the international covenants on human rights and other relevant instruments to which they are parties,

Expressing concern at the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly in the eastern part of the country, resulting from violence, including sexual violence, against civilians, especially women and children, and taking note of the progress

made by the authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the ongoing prosecution of the perpetrators of these acts and in the provision of reparations to victims,

Encouraging the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to put an end to impunity for crimes under international law by strengthening its justice system,

Noting with concern the cases of threats and violence reported during the presidential and legislative elections, including against members of civil society and human rights defenders,

Acknowledging the joint role played by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the human rights section of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in improving the human rights situation in the country,

Noting the existence of a national programme for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the resolve of the Government to implement it,

Taking note of the decision of the National Independent Electoral Commission to continue organizing elections at the provincial and local levels, and calling upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to hold free and fair elections with all due respect for the right of all parties to freedom of expression, assembly and opinion,

Considering that the Joint Committee on Justice serves as a framework for exchanges and coordination among partners in the field of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

Taking note of the report on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo presented by the Government, which addresses in particular the judicial monitoring of the electoral process, the creation of endogenous mechanisms for monitoring the human rights situation and the implementation of the action plan on follow-up to recommendations relating to human rights,

Taking note also of the report of the High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the activities of her Office in the country,

1. *Takes note* of the commitment of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to cooperate with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council;

2. *Welcomes* the adoption of the national action plan on follow-up to recommendations relating to the promotion and protection of human rights, and encourages the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to set targets with precise deadlines for the implementation of the national action plan and the provision of technical assistance;

3. *Takes note* of the visit made to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 25 July to 5 August 2011, at the invitation of the Government, by the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;

4. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to ensure that the human rights liaison entity is able to act as a framework for consultation and coordination in the field of human rights in the country, and welcomes the extension of this

body's activities to the provinces so as to ensure close monitoring of the human rights situation;

5. *Commends* the role played by the international community, in particular the European Union, the African Union, the Southern African Development Community, the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries and the Economic Community of Central African States, as well as the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, in supporting the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to strengthen the rule of law and improve the human rights situation in the country;

6. *Urges* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to redouble its efforts, with the support of the international community, to quickly put an end to impunity and all violations of human rights and to bring the perpetrators to justice;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to put an end to all human rights violations and to assist the victims of such violations, and encourages it to pursue its efforts in this regard;

8. *Takes note* of the organization of presidential and legislative elections in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 28 November 2011;

9. *Invites* the international community to continue to support the Joint Committee on Justice as a framework for exchange and coordination of the various contributions made in the field of justice in the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

10. *Also commends* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for adopting and sending to the Senate bills on the protection of human rights defenders and on the establishment of a special court to hear cases involving grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and encourages it to strive for the quick adoption by the new national Parliament of these instruments;

11. *Takes note* of the initiatives taken by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to promote the administration of justice and human rights, in particular by assigning the 2,000 newly recruited magistrates to posts throughout the country, by making the juvenile courts operational, by establishing a unit for the protection of human rights defenders and by organizing open-house events with a view to protecting the victims of human rights violations or abuses of power in the justice system;

12. *Encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to continue to ratify international and regional human rights instruments and to promote human rights education;

13. *Also encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to complete the establishment of a national human rights commission in accordance with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (the Paris Principles);

14. *Further encourages* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to evaluate, together with all the parties concerned, the national action plan on follow-up to recommendations related to human rights and to inform the Council, at its twenty-fourth session, of the results of that evaluation;

15. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner, through its office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to increase and enhance the technical assistance programmes and activities requested of it by the Government, and to report thereon to the Council at its twenty-fourth session;

16. *Encourages* the new Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence to request to visit the Democratic Republic of the Congo and to report thereon to the Council;

17. *Calls upon* the international community to support the national efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its institutions with a view to improving the human rights situation in the country, and to respond to its requests for technical assistance;

18. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at its twenty-fourth session.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/28

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,

Acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and unity of Somalia,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the situation of human rights in Somalia,

Acknowledging the commitment of and efforts made by the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, especially those of States contributing to the African Union Mission in Somalia, including regional countries, to support efforts to achieve security, reconciliation and stability, and the efforts made by the international community and regional partners to help Somalia consolidate peace and security, as well as the rule of law, on its national territory,

Commending the African Union Mission in Somalia for its efforts, as requested by the Peace and Security Council, to minimize civilian casualties during its operations, encouraging the Mission to intensify its efforts in this regard, and also encouraging the African Union to support the Mission in increasing awareness and training among its troops on human rights and international humanitarian law,

Welcoming the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia,

Acknowledging the constructive engagement of the Transitional Federal Government and Somali regional authorities in the universal periodic review,

1. *Expresses its continued serious concern* at the human rights and humanitarian situation in Somalia;

2. *Strongly condemns* the grave and systematic human rights abuses perpetrated against the civilian population, in particular by Al-Shabaab and its affiliates, and calls for their immediate cessation;

3. *Urges* all parties to take immediate steps to protect children and end abuses and violations committed against them, calls in particular for an immediate end to the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers, and welcomes the efforts of the Transitional Federal Government towards finalizing an action plan with the United Nations to end the use of child soldiers, and emphasizes the importance of signing and implementing the plan immediately;

4. *Stresses* the primary responsibility of the Transitional Federal Government to implement the Somalia End of Transition Road Map, encourages it and the Somali regional authorities to redouble their efforts, with the support of the United Nations Political Office for Somalia and the international community, to implement fully the key benchmarks set out in the Road Map before the end of the transitional period on 20 August 2012, and to continue to use the process initiated at the two constitutional conferences held in Garowe in December 2011 and February 2012, to ensure that post-transition political arrangements are inclusive and representative, recognizing that a resilient and responsive political framework is the best basis on which to improve the human rights environment;

5. *Welcomes* the valuable role of women in efforts to build a better future for Somalia and, in particular, calls on the Transitional Federal Government and Somali regional authorities to take the necessary steps to enable the full and equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as in peacebuilding and political processes;

6. *Emphasizes* that protecting, respecting and fulfilling human rights will be essential for the legitimacy of any future Somali political leadership, and also emphasizes the importance of training in human rights and international humanitarian law for Somali security forces;

7. *Calls on* Somalia to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights contained in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

8. *Also calls on* Somalia to fulfil its obligations under international human rights law;

9. *Welcomes* the London Conference on Somalia, held on 23 February 2012, which demonstrated the international community's political will and determination to support the people of Somalia as they build peace and stability;

10. *Also welcomes* the communiqué from the London Conference, in which the delegations affirmed that respect for human rights must be at the heart of the peace process, called for action to address in particular the grave human rights violations and abuses that women and children face, emphasized that journalists must be able to operate freely and without fear and that civilians must be protected, called upon the Somali authorities to take measures to uphold human rights and end the culture of impunity, and agreed to step up international efforts, including through the United Nations human rights architecture;

11. *Calls on* all parties to ensure that the progress made at the London Conference is consolidated through effective action, and to redouble their efforts to support the people of Somalia in their search for a better future for their country and, in this regard, welcomes the intention of the Government of Turkey to hold a conference on Somalia in Istanbul;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-first session, a report assessing current United Nations support for efforts in Somalia to end all human rights abuses and combat impunity, as reflected in the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Somalia,³⁸ and containing proposals for a more integrated approach across the United Nations system, considering in this context the role of the field presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Somalia;

13. *Urges* all parties to facilitate rapid and unhindered humanitarian access;

14. *Notes* the importance of sustainable development in supporting national and international peacebuilding efforts and, in this context, emphasizes the role that the realization of all human rights can play in building sustainable peace in Somalia;

15. *Encourages* Somalia to implement the recommendations it accepted following its review at the eleventh session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation;

16. *Looks forward* to the reports of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia and of the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first and twentieth sessions, respectively;

17. *Welcomes* the ongoing role of the Office of the High Commissioner in providing technical assistance for the Transitional Federal Government and regional authorities, within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding, and encourages the speedy and effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Transitional Federal Government for this purpose;

18. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to provide the Independent Expert with all the human, technical and financial assistance necessary to carry out his mandate;

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

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/29

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant human rights treaties,

Recalling Security Council resolution 2014 (2011) of 21 October 2011 and Human Rights Council resolution 18/19 of 29 September 2011,

³⁸ A/HRC/18/6.

Recognizing that the promotion and protection of human rights are key factors in ensuring a fair and equitable justice system and, ultimately, reconciliation and stability for the country,

Welcoming the process of political transition based on the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism that has started in Yemen, and the commitment of the Government of Yemen to fully promote and protect human rights,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation in Yemen³⁹ and of the debate held during the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, as well as the statement, formal replies and comments by the Government of Yemen on the report and its willingness to cooperate with the United Nations and Office of the High Commissioner;

2. *Takes note with appreciation* of the efforts made by the Government of Yemen to implement Human Rights Council resolution 18/19;

3. *Welcomes and supports* the invitation by the Government of Yemen to establish a country office of the High Commissioner;

4. *Looks forward* to further progress by the Government of Yemen regarding the implementation of its announcement that it will launch transparent and independent investigations, which will adhere to international standards, into credible documented allegations of human rights violations through an independent national committee and in consultation with political parties, and calls upon all parties to release persons arbitrarily detained by them and to end any practices of unlawful detention of persons;

5. *Encourages* the Government of Yemen to continue to implement the accepted recommendations contained in the reports of the High Commissioner⁴⁰ with the support of her Office;

6. *Reiterates* the commitments and obligations of the Government of Yemen to promote and protect human rights;

7. *Invites* all bodies of the United Nations system, including the Office of the High Commissioner and Member States, to assist the transitional process in Yemen, including by supporting the mobilization of resources to tackle the economic and social challenges faced by Yemen, in coordination with the international donor community and according to the priorities set by the Yemeni authorities;

8. *Calls upon* the international community to provide financial support for the Yemen humanitarian response plan of 2012 and the joint United Nations stabilization plan;

9. *Requests* the High Commissioner to provide technical assistance and to work with the Government of Yemen, as needed, to identify additional areas of assistance to enable Yemen to fulfil its human rights obligations;

10. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to present to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-first session, a progress report on the situation of human rights in Yemen and on the follow-up to the present resolution and Council resolution 18/19.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

³⁹ A/HRC/19/51.

⁴⁰ A/HRC/18/21 and A/HRC/19/51.

19/30 Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other applicable human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolutions 13/21 of 26 March 2010 and 16/36 of 25 March 2011,

Reaffirming that all States have an obligation to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments to which they are parties,

Noting with appreciation the measures adopted by the Government of Guinea with a view to restoring the rule of law and to promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Noting with concern the persistence of challenges in the areas of security and respect for human rights and the need for greater efforts to speed up the pace of reforms,

Recalling that it is the primary responsibility of Guinea to protect its civilian population, to conduct inquiries into violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, and to bring perpetrators to justice,

1. *Recognizes* the efforts made by Guinea and the international community, in particular the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and the European Union, to act upon the recommendations set forth in Human Rights Council resolution 16/36 for strengthening the rule of law and improving the human rights situation in Guinea;

2. *Takes note* of the efforts made by the Government of Guinea to address the human rights violations committed during the events of 28 September 2009 by appointing a panel of judges to investigate those events, and encourages the Government of Guinea to ensure that this panel of judges is provided with the necessary means and security conditions to enable them to effectively fulfil the mandate conferred upon them;

3. *Takes note also* of the creation of a provisional national reconciliation commission and of an independent human rights commission, and encourages the Government of Guinea to promote human rights and work to promote reconciliation;

4. *Takes further note* of the fact that the Government of Guinea worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to open the office in Conakry and that the Guinean authorities have agreed to the deployment of members of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict;

5. *Encourages* the Government of Guinea to accelerate its implementation of the recommendations made by the International Commission of Inquiry established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and supported by the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States and to adopt supplementary measures to that end in the following areas:

(a) Prosecution of those responsible for the events of 28 September 2009, including the acts of sexual violence committed against women and girls, under conditions that will ensure the safety and protection of the judges, judicial personnel and victims involved, the transparency of the mandate and working methods of the panel of judges, and their ability to investigate and prosecute the persons at all levels who are implicated in those events;

(b) Protection of the survivors of these acts of violence, including the victims of sexual violence, and provision of all suitable forms of reparation and assistance, including medical assistance and psychological support, particularly for victims of sexual violence;

(c) Compensation for the families of victims who died following the events of 28 September 2009 and just reparation for the physical and psychological suffering inflicted upon those who were wounded;

(d) Reform of the justice system;

(e) Reform of the security sector;

(f) Adoption of a national plan for combating discrimination;

(g) Alignment of national legislation with the relevant resolutions on violence against women and girls;

6. *Calls upon* the Guinean authorities to continue to prosecute persons implicated in the events of 28 September 2009;

7. *Reiterates its appeal* to the Guinean authorities to align national legislation with the provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which Guinea ratified on 14 July 2003;

8. *Takes note*, in that regard, of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human rights in Guinea;⁴¹

9. *Calls upon* the Guinean authorities and the opposition to work together to establish a timetable for legislative elections and to ensure that the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association are protected throughout the electoral process;

10. *Welcomes* the Guinean Government's undertaking to promote justice, truth and reconciliation, takes note in that regard of the progress report issued on 15 December 2011 by the provisional national reconciliation commission, and encourages the Guinean authorities to take advantage of the available international expertise and to pursue its dialogue with civil society on the subject;

11. *Firmly reiterates* its appeal to the international community to:

(a) Provide the Guinean authorities with appropriate assistance to promote respect for human rights through, inter alia, the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the fight against impunity and reform of the security and justice sectors, as well as the initiatives that are under way to promote truth, justice and national reconciliation;

(b) Support the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Guinea;

⁴¹ A/HRC/19/49.

12. *Invites* the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its twenty-second regular session on the situation of human rights and the work of her office in Guinea.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/31 Integrity of the judicial system

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 14, 15, 16 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and bearing in mind the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling other important documents on the issue of the integrity of the judiciary endorsed by various forums of the United Nations, in particular the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, the Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers, the Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors, the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment and the Safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, as well as the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct,

Recalling also the resolutions on the subject of the Commission on Human Rights, in particular its resolution 2005/30 of 19 April 2005,

Recalling further Human Rights Council decision 2/110 of 27 November 2006 and Council resolution 17/2 of 16 June 2011,

Convinced that the integrity of the judicial system, together with its independence and impartiality, is an essential prerequisite for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, for upholding the rule of law and ensuring that there is no discrimination in the administration of justice,

Stressing that the integrity of the judiciary should be observed at all times,

1. *Takes note* of the relevant sections of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers⁴² and of the report submitted by the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on the issue of the administration of justice through military tribunals;⁴³

2. *Reiterates* that, as declared in article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, every person is entitled, in full equality, to a fair and public hearing by a competent, independent and impartial tribunal duly established by law, in the determination of his/her rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him/her, and that he/she is entitled to the presumption of innocence until proven guilty according to law;

3. *Notes* that, according to paragraph 5 of the Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary, everyone has the right to be tried by ordinary courts or

⁴² A/HRC/11/41 and A/HRC/14/26.

⁴³ E/CN.4/2006/58.

tribunals using established legal procedures, and that tribunals that do not use duly established procedures of the legal process shall not be created to displace the jurisdiction belonging to the ordinary courts or judicial tribunals;

4. *Underlines* that any court trying a person charged with a criminal offence should be competent, independent and impartial;

5. *Urges* States to guarantee that all persons brought to trial before courts or tribunals under their authority have the right to be tried in their presence, to defend themselves in person or through legal assistance of their own choosing, and to have all the guarantees necessary for their legal defence;

6. *Calls upon* States to ensure that the principles of equality before the courts and before the law are respected within their judicial systems by, inter alia, providing to those being tried the possibility to examine, or to have examined, the witnesses against them and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on their behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against them;

7. *Reaffirms* that every convicted person should have the right to have his/her conviction and sentence reviewed by a tribunal of competent, independent and impartial jurisdiction according to law;

8. *Calls upon* States that have military courts or special tribunals for trying criminal offenders to ensure that such bodies are an integral part of the general judicial system and that such courts apply due process procedures that are recognized according to international law as guarantees of a fair trial, including the right to appeal a conviction and a sentence;

9. *Stresses* the importance of developing cooperation between national judicial systems with a view to, inter alia, strengthening the protection of persons deprived of their liberty;

10. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers to take full account of the present resolution in the discharge of her mandate and in her report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-third session;

11. *Decides* to continue consideration of this issue in accordance with its annual programme of work.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/32

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling also all previous resolutions on human rights and unilateral coercive measures adopted by the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly,

Reaffirming Human Rights Council resolution 15/24 of 1 October 2010 and General Assembly resolution 66/156 of 19 December 2011,

Stressing that unilateral coercive measures and legislation are contrary to international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States,

Recognizing the universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated character of all human rights and, in this regard, reaffirming the right to development as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of all human rights,

Expressing its concern at the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, development, international relations, trade, investment and cooperation,

Recognizing that unilateral coercive measures in the form of economic sanctions can have far-reaching implications for the human rights of the general population of targeted States, disproportionately affecting the poor and the most vulnerable classes,

Recognizing also that long-term unilateral coercive measures may result in social problems and raise humanitarian concerns in the States targeted,

Recalling the final document of the fifteenth summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in July 2009, in which the States members of the Movement decided to oppose unilateralism and unilaterally-imposed measures by certain States, which can lead to the erosion and violation of the Charter and international law, the use and threat of use of force and pressure and coercive measures as a means to achieving their national policy objectives, and to support, in accordance with international law, the claim of affected States, including targeted States, to compensation for damage incurred as a consequence of the implementation of extraterritorial or unilateral coercive measures or laws,

Recalling also that the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, called upon States to refrain from any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter and that created obstacles to trade relations among States and impeded the full realization of all human rights, and that also severely threatened the freedom of trade,

Deeply concerned that, despite the resolutions adopted on this issue by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council, the Commission on Human Rights and at United Nations conferences held in the 1990s and at their five-year reviews, and contrary to norms of international law and the Charter, unilateral coercive measures continue to be promulgated, implemented and enforced by, inter alia, resorting to war and militarism, with all their negative implications for the social-humanitarian activities and economic and social development of developing countries, including their extraterritorial effects, thereby creating additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by peoples and individuals under the jurisdiction of other States,

Reaffirming that unilateral coercive measures are a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recalling article 1, paragraph 2, common to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which provides that, inter alia, in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

1. *Calls upon* all States to stop adopting or implementing unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects, which create obstacles to trade relations among States, thus impeding the full realization of the

rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments, in particular the right of individuals and peoples to development;

2. *Strongly objects* to the extraterritorial nature of those measures which, in addition, threaten the sovereignty of States and, in this context, calls upon all Member States neither to recognize these measures nor to apply them, and to take effective administrative or legislative measures, as appropriate, to counteract the extraterritorial application or effects of unilateral coercive measures;

3. *Condemns* the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure against any country, particularly against developing countries, with a view to preventing these countries from exercising their right to decide, of their own free will, their own political, economic and social systems;

4. *Reiterates* its call upon Member States that have initiated such measures to abide by the principles of international law, the Charter, the declarations of the United Nations and world conferences and relevant resolutions, and to commit themselves to their obligations and responsibilities arising from the international human rights instruments to which they are parties by putting an immediate end to such measures;

5. *Reaffirms*, in this context, the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their own economic, social and cultural development;

6. *Also reaffirms* its opposition to any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and territorial integrity of a State, which is incompatible with the Charter;

7. *Recalls* that, according to the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, and to the relevant principles and provisions contained in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 3281 (XXIX) of 12 December 1974, in particular article 32 thereof, no State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measure to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights and to secure from it advantages of any kind;

8. *Reaffirms* that essential goods, such as food and medicines, should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development;

9. *Underlines* the fact that unilateral coercive measures are one of the main obstacles to the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development and, in this regard, calls upon all States to avoid the unilateral imposition of economic coercive measures and the extraterritorial application of domestic laws that run counter to the principles of free trade and hamper the development of developing countries;

10. *Rejects* all attempts to introduce unilateral coercive measures, as well as the increasing trend in this direction, including through the enactment of laws with extraterritorial application, which are not in conformity with international law;

11. *Recognizes* that the Declaration of Principles, adopted at the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva in December 2003, strongly urges States to avoid and refrain from any unilateral measure in building the information society;

12. *Invites* all special rapporteurs and existing thematic mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in the field of economic, social and cultural rights to pay due

attention, within the scope of their respective mandates, to the negative impact and consequences of unilateral coercive measures;

13. *Decides* to give due consideration to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures in its task concerning the implementation of the right to development;

14. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in discharging her functions in relation to the promotion and protection of human rights, to pay due attention and give urgent consideration to the present resolution;

15. *Takes note* of the thematic study prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights⁴⁴ including recommendations on actions aimed at ending such measures;

16. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner:

(a) To organize, prior to the twenty-third session of the Human Rights Council, a workshop on the various aspects relating to the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations in the States targeted, with the participation of States, academic experts and civil society representatives;

(b) To prepare a report on the proceedings of the workshop and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-third session;

17. *Decides* to examine this question in accordance with its annual programme of work under the same agenda item.

55th meeting
23 March 2012

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 35 to 12, with no abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America]

19/33

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

⁴⁴ A/HRC/19/33.

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000, and the renewed commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by their target date of 2015, as set out in the outcome document adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

Recalling also all decisions and resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, the latest of which being Council resolution 16/22 of 25 March 2011 and Assembly resolution 66/152 of 19 December 2011,

Recalling further the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, and the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva, from 20 to 24 April 2009, and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue in all relevant forums, including in the context of the universal periodic review, and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Reiterating the role played by the universal periodic review as an important mechanism in contributing to the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 6/17 of 28 September 2008, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to establish a universal periodic review voluntary trust fund to facilitate the participation of developing countries, particularly least developing countries, in the universal periodic review mechanism, and to establish the voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance, to be administered jointly with the universal periodic review voluntary trust fund, in order to provide, in conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with, and with the consent of, the country concerned,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Underlining the fact that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

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

2. *Recognizes* that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. *Reaffirms* that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. *Urges* all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Considers* that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. *Reaffirms* that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

8. *Emphasizes* the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in raising the capacities of States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

9. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretariat, in which it indicated that, owing to technical reasons, the first written update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the resources available to it had not been submitted,⁴⁵ and reiterates its request to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Human Rights Council with an annual written update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance, and the resources available to them;

10. *Also takes note* of the compilation prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner of the views of States and relevant stakeholders on the contribution of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance,⁴⁶ in particular with regard to its sustainability and accessibility, to the implementation of recommendations accepted by States as part of their universal periodic review that require financial support;

11. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to seek to enhance dialogue with representatives from non-traditional donor countries with a view to broaden the donor base and replenish the resources available to both funds;

⁴⁵ A/HRC/19/25.

⁴⁶ A/HRC/19/50.

12. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to make clear the process by which States request assistance from both funds, and to process such requests in a timely and transparent manner that adequately responds to the requesting States;

13. *Urges* States to continue to support both funds;

14. *Calls upon* States, specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

15. *Urges* States to take necessary measures to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

16. *Invites* States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

17. *Takes note* of the study of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,⁴⁷ prepared pursuant to the mandate given by the Council, in its resolution 13/23 of 26 March 2010, to the Advisory Committee to explore ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights;

18. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner:

(a) To organize, before the twenty-second session of the Human Rights Council, from within existing resources, a seminar on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, with the participation of States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society, in addition to a member of the Advisory Committee. The seminar will build upon the study prepared by the Advisory Committee, including the recommendations contained therein;

(b) To prepare a report on the deliberations held during the seminar and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session;

19. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the matter in 2013, in accordance with its annual programme of work.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/34 The right to development

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling the Charter of the United Nations and the core human rights instruments,

⁴⁷ A/HRC/19/74.

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986,

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolutions 4/4 of 30 March 2007 and 9/3 of 17 September 2008, and recalling all Commission on Human Rights, Council and General Assembly resolutions on the right to development,

Recognizing the renewed commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by their target date of 2015, as set out in the outcome document adopted at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,⁴⁸

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

Cognizant of the importance of engaging the United Nations system, including United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies, within their respective mandates, relevant international organizations, including financial and trade organizations, and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, in discussions on the right to development,

Recognizing that achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, requires effective policy coherence and coordination towards a global partnership for development that takes into consideration the right to development,

Taking note of the commitment declared by a number of United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes and other international organizations to make the right to development a reality for all and, in this regard, encouraging 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 in development and development-related processes, including the follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, the thirteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20), the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, and the post 2015 development agenda,

Taking note also of the summary of the panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on the theme, “The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice”⁴⁹ and of the report of the 2011 Social Forum,⁵⁰ which focused on the right to development,

Stressing the primary responsibility of States for the creation of national and international conditions favourable to the realization of the right to development,

Recalling that 2011 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development and, in this regard, expressing its appreciation of the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in commemorating the anniversary, including by holding and co-organizing side events and panel discussions and launching outreach activities for the promotion of the realization of the right to development,

⁴⁸ General Assembly resolution 65/1.

⁴⁹ A/HRC/19/39.

⁵⁰ A/HRC/19/70.

Stressing that, in General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, the Assembly decided that the responsibility of the High Commissioner shall be, among others, to promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for that purpose,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the right to development,⁵¹ which contains a summary of the activities undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner with regard to the promotion and realization of the right to development, including in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

2. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to submit to the Human Rights Council an annual report on its activities, including on inter-agency coordination within the United Nations system with regard to the promotion and realization of the right to development;

3. *Takes note* of the efforts under way in the framework of the Working Group on the Right to Development, with a view to completing the tasks entrusted to it by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 4/4, in fulfilment of the Working Group's mandate as established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1998/72 of 22 April 1998;

4. *Also takes note* of the report of the Working Group on the Right to Development on its twelfth session;⁵²

5. *Decides:*

(a) To continue to act to ensure that its agenda promotes and advances sustainable development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and, in this regard, lead to raising the right to development, as set out in paragraphs 5 and 10 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, to the same level and on a par with all other human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) To take note of the conclusion of the Working Group on the need to further consider, revise and refine the right to development criteria and operational sub-criteria contained in the report of the high-level task force on the implementation of the right to development on its sixth session;⁵³

(c) To endorse the recommendations of the Working Group on the Right to Development as outlined in its report;

(d) To invite Governments, groups of Governments, regional groups and other relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and institutions, as well as other relevant multilateral institutions and forums, to submit further detailed comments and proposals on the right to development criteria and operational sub-criteria;

(e) To request the Office of the High Commissioner to make available on its website, and to make available to the Working Group at its next session, in the format of two conference room papers, all written submissions by Governments, groups of Governments and regional groups, as well as inputs by other stakeholders;

⁵¹ A/HRC/19/45.

⁵² A/HRC/19/52 and Corr.1.

⁵³ A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2.

(f) To invite the Chairperson/Rapporteur of the Working Group to hold informal consultations with Governments, groups of Governments, regional groups and relevant stakeholders and to report thereon to the Working Group at its next session;

(g) That the criteria and corresponding operational subcriteria mentioned in subparagraph (b) above, once considered, revised and endorsed by the Working Group, should be used, as appropriate, in the elaboration of a comprehensive and coherent set of standards for the implementation of the right to development;

(h) That the Working Group shall take appropriate steps to ensure respect for and the practical application of the above-mentioned standards, which could take various forms, including guidelines on the implementation of the right to development, and evolve into a basis for consideration of an international legal standard of a binding nature through a collaborative process of engagement;

6. *Encourages* the High Commissioner to pursue her efforts, in fulfilment of her mandated responsibility, to enhance support for the promotion and protection of the realization of the right to development, taking as reference the Declaration on the Right to Development, all resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the right to development, and agreed conclusions and recommendations of the Working Group;

7. *Encourages* relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, including the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies, relevant international organizations, including the World Trade Organization and relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, to contribute further to the work of the Working Group and to cooperate with the High Commissioner in the fulfilment of her mandate with regard to the implementation of the right to development;

8. *Decides* to review the progress of the implementation of the present resolution as a matter of priority at its future sessions.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 46 to 0, with 1 abstention. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Abstaining:

United States of America]

19/35

The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Reaffirming also that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, States Members of the United Nations have pledged to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 12/16 of 2 October 2009 and 16/4 of 24 March 2011, on freedom of opinion and expression, 15/21 of 30 September 2010, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and decision 17/120 of 17 June 2011, on the panel on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests,

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

Recognizing that, pursuant to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, of expression and of association are human rights guaranteed to all, while their exercise may be subject to certain restrictions, in accordance with State's obligations under applicable international human rights instruments,

Acknowledging that participation in peaceful protests can be an important form of exercising the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, freedom of expression and of participation in the conduct of public affairs,

Acknowledging also that peaceful protests can contribute to the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights,

Reaffirming that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Reaffirming also that participation in public and peaceful protests should be entirely voluntary and uncoerced,

Stressing therefore that everyone must be able to express their grievances or aspirations in a peaceful manner, including through public protests, without fear of being injured, beaten, arbitrarily arrested and detained, tortured, killed or subjected to enforced disappearance,

Stressing also that peaceful protests should not be viewed as a threat, and therefore encouraging all States to engage in an open, inclusive and meaningful dialogue when dealing with peaceful protests and their causes,

Recognizing that national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, can play a useful role in facilitating continued dialogue between individuals taking part in peaceful protests and relevant authorities,

Stressing the need to ensure full accountability for human rights violations or abuses in the context of peaceful protests,

Recalling the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, as adopted at the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

1. *Recognizes* the need to reflect on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests;
2. *Welcomes* the holding of the panel discussion on the issue of the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests by the Human Rights Council at its eighteenth session and the active participation of States and other stakeholders therein;
3. *Takes note* of the summary of the panel discussions prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;⁵⁴
4. *Acknowledges* that peaceful protests can occur in all societies;
5. *Recalls* that States have the responsibility, including in the context of peaceful protests, to promote and protect human rights and to prevent human rights violations, in particular extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, arbitrary arrest and detention, enforced disappearances, and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and calls upon States to avoid the abuse of criminal and civil proceedings or threats of such acts at all times;
6. *Encourages* all States to avoid using force wherever possible during peaceful protests, and to ensure that, where force is absolutely necessary, no one is subject to excessive or indiscriminate use of force;
7. *Calls upon* States, and where applicable relevant governmental authorities, to ensure adequate training of law enforcement officials and military personnel and to promote adequate training for private personnel acting on behalf of a State, including in international human rights law, and, where appropriate, international humanitarian law;
8. *Requests* the High Commissioner to prepare and submit a thematic report to the Human Rights Council, prior to its twenty-second session, on effective measures and best practices to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests;
9. *Encourages* relevant thematic special procedures mandate holders, including the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, to contribute to the above-mentioned thematic report;
10. *Requests* the High Commissioner, in preparing the thematic report, to draw from the experience of treaty bodies and to seek the views of States and relevant partners, such as United Nations agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations;
11. *Decides* to consider the above-mentioned report and possible next steps at its twenty-second session under agenda item 3.

55th meeting
23 March 2012

[Adopted without a vote.]

⁵⁴ A/HRC/19/40.

19/36 Human rights, democracy and the rule of law

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 55/96 of 4 December 2000 on promoting and consolidating democracy, 57/221 of 18 December 2002 on strengthening the rule of law, 59/201 of 20 December 2004 on enhancing the role of regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy and 66/102 of 9 December 2011 on the rule of law at the national and international levels, all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, in particular resolutions 1999/57 of 27 April 1999 on the promotion of the right to democracy, 2000/47 of 25 April 2000 on promoting and consolidating democracy, 2001/41 of 23 April 2001 on continuing dialogue on measures to promote and consolidate democracy, 2002/46 of 23 April 2002 on further measures to promote and consolidate democracy, 2003/36 of 23 April 2003 on interdependence between democracy and human rights, 2004/30 of 19 April 2004 on enhancing the role of regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements in promoting and consolidating democracy, 2005/32 of 19 April 2005 on democracy and rule of law, and Human Rights Council resolution 18/15 of 29 September 2011 on the incompatibility between democracy and racism,

Reaffirming that democracy, development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing and that priority should be given to national and international action aimed at their promotion and strengthening,

Reaffirming also that democracy is 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,

Recalling that each State has the responsibility for the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development, and the elimination of poverty and extreme poverty, all of which can contribute substantially to the promotion and consolidation of democracy and constitute a common and shared responsibility of States, and that good governance, including through transparency and accountability, is indispensable for building peaceful, prosperous and democratic societies,

Noting the adoption by various regional, subregional and other organizations and initiatives of institutional rules and structures that recognize the interdependent relationship between democracy and the protection of human rights, and the adoption of mechanisms designed to promote it, to prevent situations which affect or threaten democratic institutions or to implement measures for the collective defence of democracy in the event of a serious disturbance or disruption of the democratic system,

Recognizing that human rights, democracy and the rule of law are strengthened when States work to eliminate discrimination on account of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status and when they strive to ensure equality between men and women in decision-making,

Encouraged by the wish of an increasing number of countries all over the world to devote their energy, means and political will to the building of democratic societies where individuals have the opportunity to shape their own destiny,

Welcoming the democratization processes taking place in various countries and regions of the world, which are motivated by the aspirations of peoples for dignity, peace, justice, democracy, respect for human rights and development,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/32 of 6 December 2010, in which the Assembly decided to convene a high-level meeting on the rule of law at the national and international levels during the high-level segment of its sixty-seventh session,

Reaffirming that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming also the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

1. *Stresses* that democracy includes respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, inter alia, freedom of association and of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and opinion, freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, the right to be recognized everywhere as a person before the law and the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, to vote in a pluralistic system of political parties and organizations and to be elected at genuine, periodic, free and fair elections by universal and equal suffrage and by secret ballot guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the people, as well as respect for the rule of law, the separation of powers, the independence of the judiciary, transparency and accountability in public administration and decision-making and free, independent and pluralistic media;

2. *Reaffirms* the right of every citizen to vote and be elected at genuine periodic elections without discrimination of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and stresses that persons entitled to vote must be free to vote for any candidate of party for election and free to support or to oppose government, without undue influence or coercion of any kind that may distort or inhibit the free expression of the elector's will, and that the results of genuine, periodic, free and fair elections representing the choice of the people for their representatives should be respected by the international community, as well as by all parties and stakeholders;

3. *Stresses* therefore that everyone must be able to express their grievances or aspirations in a peaceful manner, including through public protests, without fear of being injured, beaten, arbitrarily arrested and detained, tortured, killed or subjected to enforced disappearance;

4. *Reaffirms* that democracy is vital for the promotion and protection of all human rights;

5. *Recalls* that the interdependence between a functioning democracy, strong and accountable institutions, transparent and inclusive decision-making and effective rule of law is essential for a legitimate and effective Government that is respectful of human rights;

6. *Emphasizes* the crucial role played by the political opposition and civil society in the proper functioning of a democracy;

7. *Calls upon* States to ensure a safe and enabling environment for the media, including for journalists, media workers and associated personnel;

8. *Urges* States to acknowledge publicly the important contribution of human rights defenders to the promotion of human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to create a safe and enabling environment for their work;

9. *Stresses* the need for the international community to assist and support countries, upon their request, that are emerging from conflict or undergoing democratization, as they may face special challenges in addressing legacies of human rights violations during their transition and in moving towards democratic governance and the rule of law;

10. *Welcomes* the encouraging developments in countries on all continents where free elections have taken place for the first time, positive constitutional changes have been enacted and democratic institutions have been strengthened, thus building confidence in representational governance and contributing to greater national and regional peace and stability;

11. *Recalls* that democratization can be a fragile process and that the respect of human rights and the rule of law are essential for the stability of democratic societies, including in the context of using information and communication technologies such as the Internet, mobile networks and social media tools;

12. *Also recalls* that States are guarantors of democracy, human rights, good governance and the rule of law, and bear responsibility for their full implementation;

13. *Reaffirms* that democracy and racism are incompatible and that any form of impunity condoned by public authorities for crimes motivated by racist, xenophobic or other discriminatory attitudes plays a role in weakening the rule of law and democracy and tends to encourage the recurrence of such acts, and condemns political platforms and organizations based on racism, xenophobia or doctrines of racial superiority and related discrimination, as well as legislation and practices based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

14. *Acknowledges* the fundamental importance of education and training on human rights and democracy in contributing to the promotion, protection and effective realization of all human rights;

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of effective, transparent and accountable legislative bodies, and acknowledges their fundamental role in the promotion and protection of human rights, democracy and the rule of law;

16. *Calls upon* States to make continuous efforts to strengthen the rule of law and promote democracy by:

(a) Upholding the separation of powers by taking appropriate constitutional, legislative, judicial and other institutional measures;

(b) Upholding the independence and the integrity of the judiciary;

(c) Ensuring that a sufficient degree of legal certainty and predictability is provided in the application of the law, in order to avoid any arbitrariness;

(d) Taking active and consistent measures aimed at increasing awareness among the population of their human rights and of their possibilities of resorting to remedies, as established by law and international human rights instruments and mechanisms, when their rights are infringed;

(e) Engaging with civil society organizations and institutions and enabling them to participate in the public debate on decisions that would contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights and the rule of law and of any other relevant decisions;

(f) Ensuring increased public access to information in a manner that can be understood by people and groups in society regarding the exercise of their rights;

(g) Taking active measures to provide equal access to persons with disabilities through means such as the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, in order to ensure their full participation in all aspects of the democratic processes;

(h) Taking appropriate measures and steps to amend electoral laws in order to enable people to vote and participate in elections, without unreasonable restrictions;

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- (i) Establishing or strengthening national human rights institutions, in compliance with the Paris Principles;
 - (j) Guaranteeing that no individual or public or private institution is above the law, by ensuring that:
 - (i) The principles of equal protection before the courts and under the law are respected within their legal systems and applied without discrimination to all persons within their jurisdiction;
 - (ii) Impunity is not tolerated for violations of human rights law and international humanitarian law, and that such violations are properly investigated and appropriately sanctioned, including by bringing the perpetrators of any crimes to justice, through domestic mechanisms or, where appropriate, international mechanisms, in accordance with international human rights obligations and the commitments of States;
 - (iii) All Government agents, irrespective of their positions, are promptly held fully accountable, consistent with applicable domestic law and international obligations, for any violation of the law that they commit;
 - (iv) The administration of justice is free from any form of discrimination;
 - (v) Comprehensive anti-corruption strategies and measures are adequately developed and applied in order to maintain the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, and to ensure the moral integrity and accountability of the members of the judiciary, legislative and executive powers;
 - (vi) The military remains accountable to relevant national civilian authorities;
 - (vii) Military courts or special tribunals are independent, competent and impartial, and that such courts or tribunals apply established procedures of due process of law and guarantees of a fair trial, in accordance with domestic law, international human rights obligations and international humanitarian law;
 - (k) Respecting equal protection under the law, by:
 - (i) Ensuring the right to life, liberty and security of person without discrimination, fully guaranteeing the right of everyone to recognition as a person before the law;
 - (ii) Ensuring that everyone has equal access to information regarding their rights and equal access to justice, including through non-judicial measures;
 - (iii) Taking active measures to improve the access to justice for all, including minorities, whose full exercise of human rights is impeded by, inter alia, the lack of information and/or resources and any discriminatory or arbitrary measures;
 - (iv) Incorporating the principle of equality of men and women under the law;
 - (v) Guaranteeing the right to a fair trial and to a due process of law without discrimination, including the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law, and the right of everyone convicted of a crime to have their conviction and sentence reviewed by a higher tribunal according to law;
 - (vi) Promoting continuously the independence, impartiality and integrity of the judiciary;
 - (vii) Guaranteeing to victims of human rights violations the right to effective remedies, including reparations, as subject to determination by competent authorities and consistent with international obligations;

(viii) Encouraging the continuous training of public servants, military personnel, parliamentary experts, lawyers, judges at all levels and the staff of the courts, as appropriate to their area of responsibility, on international human rights obligations and commitments, in particular with respect to legal aspects and procedures relating to equality under the law;

(ix) Supporting inclusive and democratic approaches in the elaboration and revision of fundamental laws and regulations that underpin democracy and the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms;

17. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance social cohesion and solidarity, as important elements of democracy, by:

(a) Developing and strengthening institutional and educational capabilities at the local, regional and national levels to mediate conflicts, resolve disputes peacefully and prevent and eliminate the use of violence in addressing social tensions and disagreements;

(b) Improving social protection systems, including appropriate and necessary social services;

(c) Encouraging social dialogue and tripartism with regard to labour relations among Government, trade unions and employer organizations;

(d) Encouraging the political and economic empowerment of women, including by increasing their representation in parliaments, cabinets and the work force, thereby reflecting equality between men and women;

18. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen their cooperation with the United Nations system, relevant intergovernmental regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements, and national human rights institutions, as well as with relevant non-governmental organizations in the field of electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization, and to initiate or reinforce networks and partnerships for the dissemination of knowledge and information about the role of democratic institutions and mechanisms in facing the political, economic, social and cultural challenges in their respective societies;

19. *Invites* intergovernmental regional, subregional and other organizations and arrangements, national human rights institutions and relevant non-governmental organizations to engage actively in work at the local, national, subregional and regional levels to consistently support and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, and to initiate exchanges with the United Nations system on their experiences by, inter alia:

(a) Identifying and disseminating best practices and experiences at the regional, subregional and cross-regional levels in promoting and protecting democratic processes, including in the field of electoral reform;

(b) Establishing and supporting regional, subregional and national civic education programmes that provide access to information on democratic governance and the rule of law, and stimulate dialogue on the functioning of democracy;

(c) Encouraging the study, in schools and universities, of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and good governance, as well as the functioning of public administration, political institutions and civil society organizations;

(d) Elaborating and widely distributing reports, assessments, training materials, handbooks, case studies and documentation on various types of democratic constitutions, electoral systems and administration in order to assist populations in making more informed choices;

(e) Encouraging the use of democratic consultative mechanisms in decision-making processes and disputes as an opportunity for stakeholders to advance their rights and reach well-informed decisions within institutional frameworks;

20. *Invites* States members of intergovernmental regional organizations and arrangements to include or reinforce provisions of the constitutive acts of their organizations and arrangements that aim at promoting democratic values and principles and at protecting and consolidating democracy in their respective societies;

21. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in consultation and cooperation with Member States, to give priority to improving the capacity of the United Nations system as an effective partner for Member States in the process of building democratic societies based on the rule of law, where individuals and peoples have the opportunity to shape their own destiny;

22. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and other relevant United Nations structures to make a concerted effort to integrate and mainstream democracy and the rule of law into their strategic planning;

23. *Acknowledges* that the Human Rights Council, by promoting the normative content and the realization of the human rights enshrined in various international instruments, can play a role in developing and promoting the fulfilment of the principles, norms and standards that are the basis of democracy and the implementation of the rule of law;

24. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, in consultation with States, national human rights institutions, civil society, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, to draft a study on common challenges facing States in their efforts to secure democracy and the rule of law from a human rights perspective, as well as on lessons learned and best practices in the engagement of the State with the international community to support such processes, and to present the study to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-second session;

25. *Urges* the Office of the High Commissioner to further develop, in close cooperation with other relevant United Nations funds and programmes, its assistance programmes in the area of the promotion and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and to include more training for members of the executive, legislative and judicial bodies of interested Member States;

26. *Decides* to organize, at its twenty-third session, a panel discussion on common challenges facing States in their efforts to secure democracy and the rule of law from a human rights perspective, as well as on lessons learned and best practices in the engagement of the State with the international community to support such processes;

27. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion in the form of a summary.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 43 to 0, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Congo, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, United States of America, Uruguay

Abstaining:

China, Cuba]

19/37

Rights of the child

The Human Rights Council,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, as well as other human rights instruments,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions on the rights of the child of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, the most recent being Council resolutions 7/29 of 28 March 2008, 10/14 of 26 March 2009, 13/20 of 26 March 2010 and 16/12 of 24 March 2011, and Assembly resolution 66/141 of 19 December 2011,

Welcoming the reports of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁵⁵ on the follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly on children⁵⁶ and on the girl child,⁵⁷

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children,⁵⁸ the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict,⁵⁹ and the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,⁶⁰

Welcoming the study of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on challenges, lessons learned and best practices in a holistic, child rights and gender-based approach to protect and promote the rights of children working and/or living on the street,⁶¹

Taking note with appreciation of the adoption by the General Assembly of the third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on a communications

⁵⁵ A/66/230.

⁵⁶ A/66/258.

⁵⁷ A/66/257.

⁵⁸ A/HRC/19/64.

⁵⁹ A/66/256.

⁶⁰ A/66/228 and A/HRC/19/63.

⁶¹ A/HRC/19/35.

procedure,⁶² and of the signing ceremony held on 28 February 2012, at which 20 States signed the Optional Protocol,

Recognizing the contribution of the International Criminal Court in ending impunity for the most serious crimes against children, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, calling upon States not to grant amnesties for such crimes and acknowledging the contribution of the international criminal tribunals and special courts in ending impunity for the most serious crimes against children, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes,

Welcoming the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and taking note with interest of recent general comments, in particular general comment No. 10 (2007) on children's rights in juvenile justice,

Welcoming also the attention paid by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council to the rights of the child in the context of their respective mandates, inter alia, the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education,⁶³ the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,⁶⁴ and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences,⁶⁵

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for,

Mindful that regional instruments can play an important role in protecting and promoting the rights of the child,

Deeply concerned that more than seven million six hundred thousand children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, caused by lack of access to health care and services, including access to skilled birth attendants and immediate newborn care, as well as to health determinants, such as clean and safe water and sanitation, and safe and adequate nutrition, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

Underlining the need to mainstream a gender perspective and to recognize the child as a rights-holder in all policies and programmes relating to children,

Welcoming the progress made towards the universal ratification of the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and on the involvement of children in armed conflict, ahead of the tenth anniversary in 2012 of their entry into force,

Recognizing that environmental damage and hazards have potentially negative effects on children and their enjoyment of their rights to life, to the highest attainable standards of health and to an adequate standard of living,

I. Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other instruments

1. *Reaffirms* that the general principles of, inter alia, the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development provide the framework for all actions concerning children, including adolescents;

⁶² General Assembly resolution 66/13.

⁶³ A/HRC/17/29.

⁶⁴ A/HRC/17/35.

⁶⁵ A/HRC/18/30.

2. *Acknowledges* that the Convention on the Rights of the Child is the most universally ratified human rights treaty, and urges the States that have not yet done so to become parties, as a matter of priority, to the Convention and the first two Optional Protocols thereto, and to consider signing and ratifying the third Optional Protocol thereto, on a communications procedure, and, concerned at the great number of reservations to the Convention, urges States parties to withdraw reservations incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them;

3. *Calls upon* States parties to implement the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto fully and in accordance with the best interests of the child by, inter alia, putting in place effective national legislation, policies and action plans, and to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the first two Optional Protocols thereto, taking fully into consideration the guidelines elaborated by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, as well as taking into account the recommendations made by the Committee in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention;

4. *Also calls upon* States parties to designate, establish or strengthen relevant governmental structures for children, including, where appropriate, ministries in charge of child issues, independent ombudspersons and other independent institutions for children, and to ensure adequate and systematic training on the rights of the child for professionals working with and for children;

5. *Encourages* States to develop and strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for national statistics, including in the area of juvenile justice and on children deprived of liberty, as well as children of incarcerated parents, and, as far as possible, to use data disaggregated by, inter alia, age, sex, ethnicity, location, language, family income, disability and other relevant factors that may lead to disparities, and other statistical indicators at the national, subnational, subregional, regional and international levels, to develop and assess social policies and programmes so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively for the full realization of the rights of the child;

6. *Calls upon* all States to strengthen their international commitment, cooperation and mutual assistance with the objective of fully realizing the rights of the child, including through the sharing of good practices, research, policies, monitoring and capacity-building;

7. *Calls upon* States to ensure that their national legal systems are able to provide remedies to children who are victims of violations of their rights, and to ensure that such systems are accessible and appropriate for all children without discrimination of any kind;

8. *Reaffirms* the right of the child to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her and giving those views due weight in accordance with his or her age and maturity, and calls upon States to provide disability-, gender- and age-appropriate assistance to enable the active and equal participation of all children;

9. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures to establish holistic child protection systems, including laws, policies, regulations and services across all social sectors, especially social welfare, education, health, security and justice, in order to address the multiple needs and underlying vulnerabilities of children in the most disadvantaged and marginalized situations;

II. Mainstreaming of the rights of the child

10. *Reaffirms* its commitment to effectively integrate the rights of the child into its work and that of its mechanisms in a regular, systematic and transparent manner, taking into account the specific needs of boys and girls;

11. *Decides* to continue to incorporate into its programme of work sufficient time, at a minimum an annual full-day meeting, to discuss different specific themes on the rights of the child, including the identification of challenges to the realization of the rights of the child, as well as measures and best practices that can be adopted by States and other stakeholders, and to assess the effective integration of the rights of the child into its work;

12. *Urges* all stakeholders to take into full account the rights of the child in the second and subsequent cycles of the universal periodic review, in the preparation of information submitted for the review and during its dialogue, outcome and follow-up, in particular with regard to the implementation of recommendations on the rights of the child, and encourages States to consult civil society and children to this end, as appropriate;

13. *Encourages* special procedures and other human rights mechanisms of the Human Rights Council to integrate the rights of the child into their work and to include in their reports specific information, qualitative analysis and recommendations aimed at improving the situation of children, in accordance with their mandates;

14. *Encourages* all human rights treaty bodies to integrate the rights of the child into their work, in accordance with their mandates;

III. Protecting and promoting the rights of the child

Non-discrimination

15. *Calls upon* States to ensure the enjoyment by children of all their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

16. *Notes with concern* the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children and children of indigenous origin that are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child's gender-specific needs, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

The girl child

17. *Calls upon* all States to take all necessary measures, including by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, policies, programmes or strategies to promote and protect the human rights of the girl child, in order to:

(a) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and women and take measures to address stereotyped gender roles and other prejudices based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, and to mainstream in this context a gender perspective in all development policies and programmes, including those relating to children and those specific to the girl child;

(b) Protect girls from all forms of violence and exploitation, including female infanticide, female genital mutilation, rape, domestic violence, incest, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, child prostitution and child pornography, human trafficking, forced migration, forced labour, early and forced marriage and forced sterilization, including by addressing their root causes, to eliminate prenatal sex selection and to develop age-appropriate safe

and confidential programmes and medical, social and psychological support services to assist girls who are subjected to violence and discrimination;

(c) Promote gender equality and equal access to basic social services, such as education, nutrition, birth registration, health care, including sexual and reproductive health, in line with the International Conference on Population and Development, vaccinations and protection from diseases representing the major causes of mortality;

(d) Involve girls and their representative organizations in decision-making processes, as appropriate, and include them as full and active partners in identifying their own needs and in developing, planning, implementing and assessing policies and programmes to meet those needs;

Children with disabilities

18. *Recognizes* that children with disabilities should have full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children, and recalls the obligations to that end undertaken by the States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;

19. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To take all necessary measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by children with disabilities, in both the public and private spheres, including by incorporating an explicit focus on the specific needs of children with disabilities into policies and programmes for children, taking into account the particular situation of children with disabilities, who may be subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, including girls and children living in poverty;

(b) To ensure the protection of the dignity of children with disabilities, to promote their self-reliance and to facilitate their full and active participation and inclusion in the community, including by ensuring access to quality, inclusive education and health services, and to enact and enforce legislation protecting children with disabilities against all forms of discrimination, exploitation, human trafficking, violence and abuse;

(c) To consider ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto as a matter of priority;

Migrant children

20. *Also calls upon* all States to ensure for migrant children, as well as for children of migrant parents, the enjoyment of all human rights of every child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, to provide access to health care, social services and education of good quality in accordance with domestic laws consistent with applicable international obligations, and to ensure that migrant children, especially those who are unaccompanied and those who are victims of violence and exploitation receive special protection and assistance, in accordance with their obligations, as reflected in articles 9 and 10 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

21. *Calls upon* States to establish or strengthen policies and programmes aimed at addressing the situation of children in the context of migration that have a human rights-based approach and are based on general principles, such as the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation, survival and development;

Children working and/or living on the street

22. *Calls upon* all States to take a holistic and gender-based approach to the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street in order to prevent violations of their rights, including discrimination, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary execution, torture, all kinds of violence and

exploitation, and human trafficking, and to bring the perpetrators to justice, to adopt and implement policies for the protection, social and psychosocial rehabilitation and reintegration of those children, and to adopt economic, social and educational strategies to address the problems of children working and/or living on the street;

Refugee and internally displaced children

23. *Also calls upon* all States to comply with their obligations as assumed under relevant provisions of international law, and to protect refugee, asylum-seeking and internally displaced children, in particular those who are unaccompanied and who are particularly exposed to risks in connection with armed conflict and post-conflict situations, such as recruitment, sexual violence and exploitation; to pay particular attention to programmes for voluntary repatriation and, wherever possible, local integration and resettlement, to give priority to family tracing and reunification; and, where appropriate, to cooperate with international humanitarian and refugee organizations;

Freedom from violence

24. *Encourages* States to implement the recommendations made in the United Nations study on violence against children,⁶⁶ building upon the follow-up process promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, urging them to prioritize prevention in order to address the serious incidence and long-term impact of all forms of violence against children perpetrated throughout the world, in their homes and families, in schools and other education centres, in care and justice systems, workplaces and in communities;

25. *Notes with appreciation* the consolidated partnerships promoted by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children in coordination with national Governments, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, human rights bodies and mechanisms and representatives of civil society, and with the participation of children;

26. *Calls upon* all States and invites United Nations entities and agencies, regional organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children in promoting further implementation of the recommendations made in the United Nations study on violence against children, and encourages States to provide support to the Special Representative, including adequate and predictable financial support, for the continued, effective and independent performance of her mandate, as set out by the General Assembly in its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007, and invites the private sector to provide voluntary contributions for that purpose;

27. *Calls upon* States to take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures or, where they already exist, to strengthen legislation and policy to prohibit and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings;

28. *Also calls upon* States to take, as a matter of urgency, all appropriate measures to prevent, and to protect children from, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and from all forms of violence, including physical, mental and sexual violence, to tackle all forms of bullying, child abuse and exploitation, domestic violence and neglect, human trafficking and violence perpetrated by the police, other law enforcement authorities and employees and officials in detention centres or welfare institutions, including orphanages, giving priority to the gender dimension, and to address underlying causes through a systematic and comprehensive approach;

⁶⁶ A/61/299.

29. *Further calls upon* States to ensure that all child victims of violence have access to appropriate child-sensitive health care and services, as well as social services, and that special attention is paid to the gender-specific needs of girls and boys who are victims of violence;

Identity, family relations and birth registration

30. *Urges* all States to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to preserve the child's identity, including nationality, name and family relations, as recognized by law, to ensure birth registration of all children immediately after birth, irrespective of their status, through universal, free, accessible, simple, expeditious and effective registration procedures in accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and article 24 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to raise awareness of the importance of birth registration at the national, regional and local levels, to facilitate late registration of birth, and to ensure that children who have not been registered have access without discrimination to health care, protection, education, safe drinking water and sanitation, and other basic services;

31. *Recalls* that every child has the right to acquire a nationality, recognizes the special needs of children for protection against arbitrary deprivation of nationality, and encourages States that have not acceded to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness to consider doing so;

32. *Reaffirms* paragraphs 17 and 18 of Human Rights Council resolution 7/29, and calls upon States to consider ratifying the Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Cooperation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children, the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction;

33. *Encourages* States to take into account the Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children, and to adopt and enforce laws and improve the implementation of policies and programmes, budget allocation and human resources to protect children growing up without parents or caregivers; where alternative care is necessary, decision-making should be in the best interests of the child, in full consultation with the child as age-appropriate and with his or her legal guardians;

34. *Calls upon* States to cooperate, to the extent consistent with the obligations of each State, to ensure the right of children whose parents reside in different States to maintain, on a regular basis, save in exceptional circumstances, personal relations and direct contact with both parents by facilitating access and visitation in both States and by respecting the principle that both parents have common responsibilities for the upbringing and development of their children;

Eradication of poverty

35. *Calls upon* States and the international community to support, cooperate and participate in the intensification of global efforts for poverty eradication at the global, regional and country levels by, inter alia, accelerating progress towards all development and poverty reduction goals, as set out in the Millennium Declaration and reaffirmed during its review, so as to ensure the realization of the rights of the child;

36. *Calls upon* States to ensure that all efforts to achieve child poverty-related international development goals by and beyond 2015 are guided by the obligations and commitments of States to respect, protect and fulfil human rights;

Right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health

37. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To take all necessary measures to ensure that the right of the child to life, survival and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is promoted and protected, without any kind of discrimination, including through the development and implementation of laws, strategies and policies, gender-responsive budgeting and resource allocation, and adequate investment in health systems, including comprehensive and integrated primary health care, and in the health work force, including in efforts to achieve health-related international development goals by and beyond 2015, and to ensure access to adequate food and nutrition, safe drinking water and sanitation;

(b) To address, as a matter of priority, the vulnerabilities faced by children affected by and living with HIV, by providing those children, their families and caregivers with support and rehabilitation, including social and psychological rehabilitation and care, including paediatric services and medicines, by intensifying efforts to develop tools for early diagnosis, child-friendly medicine combinations and new treatments for children, particularly for infants living in resource-limited settings, and by accelerating efforts towards the elimination of mother-to-child transmission of the virus;

(c) To ensure confidentiality and informed consent in the provision of health care and services, in particular with regard to sexual and reproductive health, to children and adolescents, according to their evolving capacities;

Right to education

38. *Also calls upon* all States:

(a) To recognize and ensure the realization of the right to education on the basis of equal opportunity and non-discrimination by making primary education available, free and compulsory for all children, ensuring that all children have access to good-quality education from an early age, and making secondary education generally available and accessible for all, in particular by the progressive introduction of free education, bearing in mind that special measures to ensure equal access, including affirmative action, contribute to achieving equal opportunity and combating exclusion;

(b) To ensure children's education is restored in emergency situations, and that disaster risk reduction strategies take into due account the right of the child to education;

(c) To design and implement programmes to provide pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers with education, social services and support, to enable them to continue and complete their education and ensure that they are not discriminated against;

Child labour

39. *Further calls upon* all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective elimination of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with the child's education or be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour, to promote education as a key strategy in this regard, including the creation of vocational training and apprenticeship programmes and the integration of working children into the formal education system, and to examine and devise economic policies, where necessary, in cooperation with the international community, that address factors contributing to these forms of child labour;

40. *Urges* all States that have not yet ratified the Conventions of the International Labour Organization concerning the Minimum Age for Admission to Employment (Convention No. 138) and the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the

Worst Forms of Child Labour (Convention No. 182) to consider doing so as a matter of priority, and encourages States to consider ratifying the Convention on Decent Work for Domestic Workers (Convention No. 189);

41. *Notes with interest* the outcome of the Hague Global Child Labour Conference, including the Road Map for Achieving the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour by 2016;

IV. Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

42. *Calls upon* all States:

(a) To take all measures necessary to eliminate, criminalize and penalize effectively all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, including within the family or for commercial purposes, child pornography and child prostitution, human trafficking, child sex tourism, the sale of children for any purpose (including sexual exploitation, organ transfer, illegal adoption and forced labour), including when these acts are committed through the Internet, and to take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

(b) To take effective measures to ensure the prosecution of offenders, including through international assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings, and to increase cooperation at all levels to prevent and dismantle networks trafficking in children;

(c) To address effectively the needs of victims of human trafficking, sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including their safety and protection, physical and psychological recovery and full reintegration into their family and society, and bearing in mind the best interests of the child, to combat the demand that encourages such criminal practices against children and factors leading to these practices, and to take the measures necessary to eliminate the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography by adopting a holistic approach and addressing all contributing root causes;

(d) To consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

V. Protection of children affected by armed conflict

43. *Condemns* in the strongest terms all violations of applicable international law committed against children in armed conflict involving the recruitment and use of children, as well as killing or maiming, rape or other sexual violence, abduction, attacks against schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access and the forced displacement of children and their families, and urges all parties to armed conflict to end all violations and to seek to end impunity for perpetrators by ensuring rigorous investigation and prosecution of crimes committed;

44. *Reaffirms* the essential role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Human Rights Council in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of children, including children affected by armed conflict, and takes note of Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict, in particular resolutions 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 and 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, and of the undertaking by the Security Council to pay special attention to the protection, welfare and rights of children in armed conflict when taking action aimed at maintaining peace and security, including provisions for the protection of children in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, as well as the inclusion of child protection advisers in these operations;

45. *Notes with appreciation* the steps taken with regard to Security Council resolutions 1612 (2005), 1882 (2009) and 1998 (2011), and the efforts of the Secretary-General to implement the monitoring and reporting mechanism, including in collecting and providing timely, objective, accurate and reliable information on children and armed conflict in accordance with those resolutions, with the participation of and in cooperation with Governments and relevant United Nations and civil society actors, including at the country level, and recognizes in this respect the work of the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict;

46. *Takes note* of the Principles and Guidelines on Children Associated with Armed Forces or Armed Groups (the Paris Principles), and encourages States that have not endorsed the Paris Commitments to protect children from unlawful recruitment or use by armed forces or armed groups (the Paris Commitments) to consider doing so, and to consider using the Paris Principles to inform their work in protecting children from the effects of armed conflicts, and requests the relevant entities of the United Nations system, within their mandates, and invites civil society, to assist Member States in this field;

47. *Calls upon* States:

(a) When ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict, to raise the minimum age for voluntary recruitment of persons into their national armed forces from that set out in article 38, paragraph 3, of the Convention, bearing in mind that, under the Convention, persons under 18 years of age are entitled to special protection, and to adopt safeguards to ensure that such recruitment is not forced or coerced;

(b) To take all feasible measures, in particular long-term educational and social and economic measures, to ensure the demobilization and effective disarmament of children used in armed conflicts, and to implement effective measures for their rehabilitation, physical and psychological recovery and reintegration into society, taking into account the rights and specific needs of girls affected by armed conflict, and paying special attention to their protection and welfare;

(c) To ensure that children accused of committing crimes during conflict while associated with armed forces are also treated as victims and that, in cases where accountability of the child is sought, the decision takes into consideration the best interests of the child and his or her reintegration into society;

(d) To take effective preventive measures against sexual exploitation and abuse by military and civilian peacekeepers, to ensure that investigations and prosecutions are carried out independently and in the best interests of the child, and to hold perpetrators to account;

48. *Calls upon* all States and other parties to armed conflict to respect fully international humanitarian law and, in this regard, calls upon States parties to respect fully the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and the Additional Protocols thereto of 8 June 1977;

VI. Children and the administration of justice

49. *Reaffirms* all resolutions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on juvenile justice, in particular Assembly resolution 65/213 of 21 December 2010 and Council resolution 18/12 of 29 September 2011;

50. *Encourages* States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law with a view to promoting, inter alia, crime prevention programmes, the use of alternative measures, such as diversion and restorative justice, and ensuring compliance with the

principle that deprivation of liberty of children should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

51. *Calls upon* States to abolish by law and in practice, as soon as possible, the death penalty and life imprisonment without possibility of release for those under 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the offence;

52. *Also calls upon* States to commute immediately such sentences and to ensure that any child previously sentenced to the death penalty or life imprisonment without possibility of release is removed from special prison facilities, especially from death row, and transferred to regular institutions of detention appropriate for the age of the offender and the offence committed;

53. *Calls upon* all States to protect children deprived of their liberty from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to ensure that, if they are arrested, detained or imprisoned, children are provided with adequate legal assistance and that they have the right to maintain contact with their family through correspondence and visits from the moment they are arrested, save in exceptional circumstances, and that no child is sentenced or subject to forced labour or corporal punishment, or deprived of access to and provision of health care and services, hygiene and environmental sanitation, education, basic instruction and vocational training, and to undertake prompt investigations of all reported acts of violence and ensure that perpetrators are held accountable;

54. *Urges* States to take special measures to protect children in contact with the law, including by means of the provision of adequate legal assistance, training in juvenile justice for judges, police officers, prosecutors and specialized lawyers, in addition to other representatives who provide other appropriate assistance, such as social workers; the establishment of specialized courts, as appropriate; the promotion of universal birth registration and age documentation; and the protection of the right of juvenile offenders to maintain contact with their families through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

55. *Also urges* States to presume children alleged as, accused of or recognized as having infringed the criminal law to be under the age of majority when their age is in doubt until such an assumption is rebutted by the prosecution, and to treat the accused as a juvenile if the burden is not met;

56. *Further urges* States to ensure that, from the very first contact with the justice system, special measures are in place so that the child understands the nature of proceedings and what is at stake for the child, and that the child is informed of his or her rights in a comprehensible manner, according to his or her age and level of maturity;

57. *Urges* States to ensure that the child is assisted during all judicial proceedings by a competent adult, parent or guardian, in addition to the child's lawyer, and to ensure that the child's right to be heard in proceedings is observed;

58. *Calls upon* States to respect the privacy of the child throughout criminal proceedings, and to ensure that any identification of the child is only made in exceptional and duly justified circumstances;

59. *Also calls upon* States to enact or review legislation to ensure that any conduct not considered a criminal offence or not penalized if committed by an adult is not considered a criminal offence and not penalized if committed by a child, in order to prevent the child's stigmatization, victimization and criminalization;

60. *Urges* States to take all necessary and effective measures, including legal reform where appropriate, to prevent and respond to all forms of violence against children within the justice system;

61. *Encourages* States to collect relevant information concerning children within their criminal justice systems so as to improve their administration of justice, while being mindful of the children's right to privacy, with full respect for relevant international human rights instruments, and bearing in mind applicable international standards on human rights in the administration of justice;

62. *Calls upon* States to consider establishing independent national or subnational mechanisms to contribute to the monitoring and safeguarding of the rights of the child, including children within their criminal justice systems, and to address children's concerns;

63. *Encourages* States to foster close cooperation between the justice sectors, different services in charge of law enforcement, social welfare and education sectors in order to promote the use and improved application of alternative measures in juvenile justice;

64. *Stresses* the importance of including rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for former child offenders in juvenile justice policies, in particular through education programmes, with a view to their assuming a constructive role in society;

65. *Encourages* States not to set the minimum age of criminal responsibility at too low an age level, bearing in mind the emotional, mental and intellectual maturity of the child, and, in this respect, refers to the recommendation of the Committee of the Rights of the Child to increase their lower minimum age of criminal responsibility to the age of 12 years as the absolute minimum age, and, where applicable, to continue to increase it to a higher age level;

66. *Calls upon* relevant special procedures of the Human Rights Council to pay special attention to questions relating to the effective protection of human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, and to provide, wherever appropriate, specific recommendations in this regard;

67. *Invites* States, upon their request, to benefit from technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice provided by the relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, in particular the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, in order to strengthen national capacities and infrastructures in the field of the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice, and encourages States to provide the secretariat of the Panel and its members with adequate resources;

Children of incarcerated parents

68. *Welcomes* the day of general discussion on children of incarcerated parents, held by the Committee on the Rights of the Child on 30 September 2011, takes note with interest of the outcomes thereof, and invites States to take the recommendations made at the discussion into account;

69. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To give priority, when sentencing or deciding on pretrial measures for a pregnant woman or a child's sole or primary care-giver, to non-custodial measures, bearing in mind the gravity of the offence and after taking into account the best interests of the child;

(b) To ensure that the best interests of the child should be a primary consideration in relation to the question of whether and how long children of imprisoned

mothers should stay with them in prison, and emphasizing the responsibility of the State to provide adequate care for women in prison and their children;

(c) To provide children of persons accused or convicted of offences with access to their incarcerated parents or parental caregivers throughout judicial proceedings and the period of detention, including regular and private meetings with the prisoners, and, wherever possible, contact visits for younger children, subject to the best interests of the child, taking into account the need to ensure the administration of justice;

(d) To recognize, promote and protect the rights of the child affected by parental incarceration, in particular the right to have their best interests included as an important consideration in decisions relating to one or both of their parent's involvement with the criminal justice system, as well as the right not to be discriminated against because of the actions or alleged actions of one or both of their parents;

(e) Bearing in mind the best interests of the child, to keep children or their legal guardians informed of the place of imprisonment of their incarcerated parents or parental caregivers and, in advance, of any transfer, as well as of the progress of petitions for pardons, reports presented to bodies such as clemency commissions, and the reasoning behind the recommendations of these bodies to support or reject petitions;

(f) To ensure that children whose parents or parental caregivers are on death row, the inmates themselves, their families and their legal representatives are provided, in advance, with adequate information about a pending execution, its date, time and location, to allow a last visit or communication with the convicted person, the return of the body to the family for burial or to inform on where the body is located, unless this is not in the best interests of the child;

VII. Follow-up

70. Decides:

(a) To request the Secretary-General to ensure the provision of appropriate staff and facilities from the United Nations regular budget for the effective and expeditious performance of the functions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, special procedures and special representatives of the United Nations system in the implementation of their mandates and, where appropriate, to invite States to continue to make voluntary contributions;

(b) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-second session, a report on the rights of the child, including information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(c) To remain seized of the issue and to consider, in accordance with the programme of work of the Human Rights Council, an omnibus resolution on the rights of the child every five years, and to focus on a theme of the rights of the child on an annual basis in the intervening period;

(d) To request the High Commissioner to prepare a summary of the full-day meeting on the rights of the child before the twenty-first session of the Human Rights Council;

(e) To focus its next full-day meeting on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, and invites the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on that issue, in close collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including States, the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and other relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, relevant special procedures mandate holders, regional organizations and human rights bodies, civil society, national human rights institutions and children themselves, and to present it to the Human

Rights Council at its twenty-second session, to inform the annual day of discussion on children's rights, and to request the High Commissioner to circulate a summary report on the next full-day meeting on the rights of the child.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/38

The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation

The Human Rights Council,

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

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006, 62/219 of 22 December 2007 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, 11/11 of 18 June 2009 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 55/61 of 4 December 2000, 55/188 of 20 December 2000, 56/186 of 21 December 2001, 57/244 of 20 December 2002, 58/205 of 23 December 2003, 59/242 of 22 December 2004, 60/207 of 22 December 2005, 61/209 of 20 December 2006, 62/202 of 19 December 2007, 63/226 of 19 December 2008, 64/237 of 24 December 2009 and 65/169 of 20 December 2010,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 17/23 of 17 June 2011,

Reiterating the commitment to ensure the effective enjoyment of all civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights for everyone, including the right to development, and the obligation of all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that all peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic cooperation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law, and that in no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence,

Recognizing that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger, and economic and sustainable development,

Alarmed at cases of corruption that involve vast quantities of assets, which may constitute a substantial proportion of the resources of States, the deprivation of which threatens the political stability and sustainable development of those States and has a negative impact on the application by States of the maximum available resources to the full realization of all human rights for all,

Deeply concerned that the enjoyment of human rights, be they economic, social and cultural, or civil and political, in particular the right to development, is seriously undermined by the phenomenon of corruption and the transfer of funds of illicit origin, which may endanger the stability and security of societies, undermine the values of

democracy and morality and jeopardize social, economic and political development, especially when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and welcoming the growing number of States parties to it,

Taking note of the work carried out by different United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as well as international and regional organizations, in preventing and combating all forms of corruption,

Recognizing that supportive domestic legal systems are essential in preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin and in returning such assets, and recalling that the fight against all forms of corruption requires strong institutions at all levels, including at the local level, able to take efficient preventive and law enforcement measures consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular chapters II and III thereof,

Appreciating the continued efforts of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, through its various intergovernmental working groups, to overview the review process of the implementation of the Convention, to advise on the provision of technical assistance to building institutional and human capacity in States parties for the prevention of corruption, and to enhance international cooperation, including in the repatriation of funds of illicit origin,

Affirming the responsibilities of requesting and requested States in the repatriation of funds of illicit origin, cognizant that countries of origin must seek repatriation as part of their duty to ensure the application of the maximum available resources to the full realization of all human rights for all, including the right to development, address human rights violations and combat impunity, and that recipient countries, on the other hand, have a duty to assist and facilitate repatriation as part of their obligation of international cooperation and assistance under chapters IV and V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in the field of human rights, and in line with the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and to curb the illicit transfer of funds,

Concerned at the difficulties, in particular the practical difficulties, that both requested and requesting States face in the repatriation of funds of illicit origin, taking into account the particular importance of the recovery of stolen assets for sustainable development and stability, and noting the difficulties of providing information establishing a link between the proceeds of corruption in the requested State and the crime committed in the requesting State, which in many cases may be difficult to prove, bearing in mind that everyone charged with a criminal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty according to law,

Acknowledging the progress made towards the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, while recognizing that States continue to face challenges in recovering funds of illicit origin owing to, inter alia, differences in legal systems, the complexity of multijurisdictional investigations and prosecutions, lack of familiarity with the mutual legal assistance procedures of other States and difficulties in identifying the flow of funds of illicit origin, and noting the particular challenges in recovering them in cases involving individuals who are or have been entrusted with prominent public functions and their family members and close associates, and recognizing also that legal difficulties are often exacerbated by factual and institutional obstacles,

Noting with deep concern that, as indicated in the comprehensive study prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of

human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights,⁶⁷ only around 2 per cent of the estimated funds of illicit origin annually leaving the developing world are repatriated to their countries of origin,

Noting the particular concern of developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the return of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption, in particular to countries from which they originated, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, in particular chapter V thereto, so as to enable countries to design and fund development projects in accordance with their national priorities in view of the importance that such assets can have to their sustainable development,

Convinced that the illicit acquisition of personal wealth can be particularly damaging to democratic institutions, national economies and the rule of law, and stressing that any resource that the State is deprived of because of corruption has potentially the same negative effect, regardless of whether it is exported or domestically retained,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the comprehensive study prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights;⁶⁷

2. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider doing so as a matter of priority;

3. *Asserts* the urgent need to repatriate illicit funds to the countries of origin without conditionalities, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption and in line with the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and to curb the illicit transfer of funds, and urges all States to step up their efforts to trace, freeze and recover those funds;

4. *Acknowledges* the importance of compliance with international human rights law in relation to the repatriation of funds of illicit origin through, inter alia, promoting human rights-based policy coherence in the deliberations and actions by States Members of the Human Rights Council and in the intergovernmental process of implementing the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

5. *Invites* the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to consider ways of adopting a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the Convention, including when dealing with the repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and appreciates the continued efforts of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on Asset Recovery of the Conference to assist States parties in fulfilling their obligations under the Convention to prevent, detect and deter in a more effective manner the international transfer of funds of illicit origin and to strengthen international cooperation in asset recovery, bearing in mind that, regardless of the capacities, resources and willingness of the requesting State's institutions and authorities, there is a victim society that is suffering the consequences of the transfer of those funds;

6. *Welcomes* the decision made at the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to convene open-ended intergovernmental expert meetings on international cooperation to advise and assist States with regard to extradition and mutual legal assistance, and notes with appreciation the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative of the World Bank Group and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and encourages coordination among existing initiatives;

⁶⁷ A/HRC/19/42.

7. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corruption practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and, in this regard, encourages close cooperation at the national and international levels between anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units;

8. *Calls upon* all States requested to repatriate funds of illicit origin to fully uphold their commitment to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and to curb the illicit transfer of funds, and to acknowledge that, in fulfilling their obligations in this regard under the United Nations Convention against Corruption, they also have a responsibility towards societies affected by corruption to make every effort to achieve the repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin in order to diminish the negative impact of non-repatriation, including on the enjoyment of human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights in the countries of origin by, inter alia, lowering the barriers imposed on requiring jurisdictions at the tracing stage and enhancing cooperation in this regard between anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement agencies and financial intelligence units, in particular taking into account the risks of dissipation of those funds, and, where appropriate, by delinking confiscation measures from a requirement of conviction in the country of origin;

9. *Also calls upon* all States requesting the repatriation of funds of illicit origin to fully uphold their commitment to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels and to curb the illicit transfer of funds, and to apply the principles of accountability, transparency and participation in the decision-making process regarding the allocation of repatriated funds to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights in order to improve prevention and detection procedures, correct identified weaknesses or mismanagement, prevent impunity, provide effective remedies directed at creating conditions for avoiding new human rights violations and improve the overall administration of justice;

10. *Reaffirms* that it is the obligation of the State to investigate and prosecute corruption, calls upon all States to strengthen criminal proceedings directed at freezing or restraining funds of illicit origin, and encourages requesting States to ensure that adequate national investigative procedures have been initiated and substantiated for the purpose of presenting mutual legal assistance requests and, in this context, encourages requested States to provide, when appropriate, information on legal frameworks and procedures to the requesting State;

11. *Underlines* that there is also a corporate responsibility to comply with and respect all applicable laws and human rights, and a need for greater access to effective remedies by victims in order to realize effective prevention of, and remedy for, business-related human rights harm, as set out in the guiding principles on business and human rights;⁶⁸

12. *Stresses* the need for transparency in financial institutions and effective due diligence measures to be applied by financial intermediaries, calls upon States to seek appropriate means in accordance with their international obligations to ensure the cooperation and responsiveness of financial institutions to foreign requests to freeze and recover funds of illicit origin and the provision of efficient mutual legal assistance regime to States requesting repatriation of those funds, and encourages the promotion of human and institutional capacity-building in that regard;

⁶⁸ A/HRC/17/31, annex.

13. *Requests* the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights to present to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-second session, an in-depth study on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the application by States of the maximum available resources to the full realization of all human rights, in particular economic, social and cultural rights, with special attention paid to developing countries and countries with economies in transition burdened by foreign debt;

14. *Requests* the High Commissioner to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and different forums dealing with the issue of the repatriation of funds of illicit origin within the United Nations system for consideration and necessary action and coordination as appropriate, particularly within the context of the Conference of State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption;

15. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 35 to 1, with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Djibouti, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

United States of America

Abstaining:

Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain, Switzerland]

19/39

Assistance for Libya in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the other relevant international human rights treaties,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006, and 66/11 of 18 November 2011, on the restoration of the rights of membership of Libya in the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007 on institution-building of the Council,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolutions S-15/1 of 25 February 2011, 17/17 of 17 June 2011 and 18/9 of 29 September 2011,

Reaffirming that all States are bound to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties to which they are party,

Reaffirming also that it is the primary responsibility of States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recalling its strong commitment to the sovereignty and independence, unity and territorial integrity of Libya,

1. *Welcomes:*

(a) The Constitutional Charter for the Transitional Stage in Libya of 3 August 2011, where promotion and protection of human rights are core elements;

(b) The statement made by the Prime Minister of Libya on 28 February 2012, during the high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, including the invitation addressed to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to visit Libya, and the willingness to extend a standing invitation to thematic special procedures to visit the country in due course;

(c) The ongoing efforts of the transitional Government of Libya to fulfil its obligations under the international human rights treaties to which Libya is party, to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to cooperate with the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner;

(d) The recent establishment of a national institution for human rights, namely, the Council of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms in Libya;

(e) The political transitional process in Libya, and the arrangements to hold the election of the Libyan National Congress later in 2012, as a step towards the establishment of a constitution and constitutional institutions that promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms;

2. *Commends* the courage of the people of Libya, and strongly supports the efforts of the transitional Government of Libya towards a swift and peaceful political transition and the full realization of human rights;

3. *Takes note* of the final report submitted by the international commission of inquiry on Libya,⁶⁹ and encourages the transitional Government of Libya to implement the recommendations addressed to it;

4. *Recognizes* the ongoing human rights challenges in Libya, and strongly encourages the transitional Government of Libya to increase its efforts to protect and promote human rights and prevent any violations;

5. *Takes note* of the adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Libya⁷⁰ at the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, and commends the cooperation of Libya with Council mechanisms, including its willingness to implement the accepted recommendations contained in the addendum to the above-mentioned report;⁷¹

6. *Strongly encourages* the transitional Government of Libya to investigate human rights violations and to bring those responsible before Libyan justice;

7. *Recognizes* that the availability of Libyan resources may help the transitional Government of Libya to utilize those resources in the field of human rights;

⁶⁹ A/HRC/19/68.

⁷⁰ A/HRC/16/15.

⁷¹ A/HRC/16/15/Add.1.

8. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner, in collaboration with the transitional Government of Libya and upon its request, to explore ways of cooperation in the field of human rights, including technical assistance and capacity-building;

9. *Invites* the Office of the High Commissioner to inform the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-second session, under agenda item 10, on its technical assistance, capacity-building and cooperation with the transitional Government of Libya.

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

II. Decisions

19/101

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Tajikistan

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Tajikistan on 3 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Tajikistan which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Tajikistan (A/HRC/19/3), together with the views of Tajikistan concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/3/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*37th meeting
14 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/102

Outcome of the universal periodic review: United Republic of Tanzania

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of the United Republic of Tanzania on 3 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on the United Republic of Tanzania which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on the United Republic of Tanzania (A/HRC/19/4), together with the views of the United Republic of Tanzania concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/4/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*37th meeting
14 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/103**Outcome of the universal periodic review: Libya**

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Libya on 9 November 2010 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Libya which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (A/HRC/16/15), together with the views of Libya concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/16/15/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*37th meeting
14 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/104**Outcome of the universal periodic review: Swaziland**

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Swaziland on 4 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Swaziland which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Swaziland (A/HRC/19/6), together with the views of Swaziland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/6/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*38th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/105

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Trinidad and Tobago

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Trinidad and Tobago on 5 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Trinidad and Tobago which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Trinidad and Tobago (A/HRC/19/7), together with the views of Trinidad and Tobago concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/7/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*38th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/106

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Thailand

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Thailand on 5 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Thailand which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Thailand (A/HRC/19/8), together with the views of Thailand concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/8/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*38th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/107

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Ireland

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Ireland on 6 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Ireland which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Ireland (A/HRC/19/9), together with the views of Ireland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/9/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*39th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/108

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Togo

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Togo on 6 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Togo which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Togo (A/HRC/19/10), together with the views of Togo concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/10/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*39th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/109

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Syrian Arab Republic

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of the Syrian Arab Republic on 7 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on the Syrian Arab Republic which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on the Syrian Arab Republic (A/HRC/19/11), together with the views of the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/11/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*39th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/110

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 7 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (A/HRC/19/12), together with the views of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/12/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*40th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/111

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Iceland

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Iceland on 10 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Iceland which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Iceland (A/HRC/19/13), together with the views of Iceland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to

questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/13/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*40th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/112

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Zimbabwe

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Zimbabwe on 10 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Zimbabwe which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Zimbabwe (A/HRC/19/14), together with the views of Zimbabwe concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*40th meeting
15 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/113

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Lithuania

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Lithuania on 11 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Lithuania which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Lithuania (A/HRC/19/15), together with the views of Lithuania concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/15/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*41st meeting
16 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/114

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Uganda

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Uganda on 11 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Uganda which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Uganda (A/HRC/19/16), together with the views of Uganda concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*41st meeting
16 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/115

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Timor-Leste

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Timor-Leste on 12 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Timor-Leste which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Timor-Leste (A/HRC/19/17), together with the views of Timor-Leste concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/17/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*41st meeting
16 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/116

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Republic of Moldova

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of the Republic of Moldova on 12 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on the Republic of Moldova which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on the Republic of Moldova (A/HRC/19/18), together with the views of the Republic of Moldova concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/18/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*42nd meeting
16 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/117

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Haiti

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Haiti on 13 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Haiti which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Haiti (A/HRC/19/19), together with the views of Haiti concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/19/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*42nd meeting
16 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/118

Outcome of the universal periodic review: Antigua and Barbuda

The Human Rights Council,

Acting in compliance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, and in accordance with the President's statement PRST/8/1 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process of 9 April 2008,

Having conducted the review of Antigua and Barbuda on 4 October 2011 in conformity with all the relevant provisions contained in Council resolution 5/1,

Adopts the outcome of the universal periodic review on Antigua and Barbuda which is constituted of the report of the Working Group on Antigua and Barbuda (A/HRC/19/5), together with the views of Antigua and Barbuda concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (A/HRC/19/5/Add.1 and A/HRC/19/2, chapter VI).

*42nd meeting
16 March 2012*

[Adopted without a vote.]

19/119

Task force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology

At its 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the Human Rights Council decided to adopt the following text:

“The Human Rights Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 65/281 of 29 June 2011 on the review of the Human Rights Council,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011 on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council, in particular paragraph 61 of the annex thereto, in which the Council decided to establish a task force to study the issues of secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology, as envisaged in paragraphs 57, 58, 59 and 60 of the annex,

Recalling further that, in resolution 16/21, the Human Rights Council requested the task force to submit concrete recommendations to the Council at its nineteenth session,

Reaffirming that compliance with the applicable rules of procedure of the Council shall be ensured,

1. *Welcomes* the report submitted by the task force, annexed to the present decision;
2. *Endorses* the report of the task force, including its recommendations with the modalities made therein in the report;
3. *Invites* all concerned stakeholders to follow up adequately on the recommendations with the modalities described made by the task force in its report, and to immediately commence implementing those without financial implications and those which may be implemented from within existing resources;
4. *Decides* to consider, at its twenty-first session, the task force recommendations with the modalities described in the report that cannot be implemented from within existing resources, in the context of the preparations for the 2014–2015 regular budget biennium, and to transmit thereafter the task force

recommendations together with relevant programme budget implications to the General Assembly for its consideration;

5. *Invites* the Human Rights Council to review the status of implementation of the task force recommendations contained in its report at its twenty-second session.”

[Adopted without a vote.]

III. President's statements

PRST/19/1

At the 53rd meeting, held on 22 March 2012, the President of the Human Rights Council read out the following statement:

“The Human Rights Council,

Bearing in mind President's statement 18/2 of 20 September 2011,

1. *Welcomes* the decision by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights that the launch of the annual report of the Office of the High Commissioner will be accompanied, annually, by meetings with the participation of States Members of the United Nations and other stakeholders to provide information on, inter alia, the issues identified in the fourth paragraph of President's statement 18/2;

2. *Also welcomes* the assurance of the High Commissioner to take into account the comments made during the meetings, and that the said comments will be compiled by the Office of the High Commissioner and made publicly available.”

PRST 19/2

Situation of human rights in Haiti

At the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council, held from 27 February to 23 March 2012, during consideration of agenda item 10, entitled “Technical assistance and capacity-building”, the President of the Council made the following statement:

“1. The Human Rights Council welcomes the latest legal and political developments in Haiti, which have been marked by:

(a) The recent peaceful transfer of power from one democratically elected president to another who is from an opposition party, and stresses the importance of ensuring that forthcoming local and parliamentary elections are carried out under proper conditions;

(b) The appointment and investiture of 11 of the 12 judges of the Court of Cassation, including the chief justice, and progress towards placing sufficient material and human resources at the disposal of the justice system to permit the implementation of the judicial reform adopted in 2007, and underscores the need to improve the operation of the Haitian prison system.

2. The Council also welcomes the Haitian authorities' plans to build housing for victims of the earthquake of 12 January 2010. It further welcomes the establishment of a special fund for children's schooling in Haiti.

3. The Council applauds the reaffirmation of the Haitian authorities' commitment and determination to improve the living conditions of Haitian women and men by, inter alia, devoting greater attention to respect for human rights.

4. The Council also applauds the priorities set by the President of the Republic, which include the rule of law, education, the environment and employment, and urges donors to honour their commitments without delay.

5. The Council emphasizes that the strengthening of national human rights institutions, such as the Office of Citizen Protection, as well as respect for human rights and due process of law, the fight against crime and its causes, and the effort to combat impunity are essential in order to ensure the rule of law and security in Haiti.

6. The Council invites the Government of Haiti to continue to adopt the necessary political and legal measures, including measures to combat the trafficking of children, in order to guarantee the rights of members of vulnerable groups.

7. The Council also invites the Government of Haiti to continue to adopt the necessary political and legal measures to increase women's participation in political affairs and to continue to combat gender-based violence and discrimination.

8. The Council is aware of the many obstacles to development in Haiti and the difficulties encountered by its leaders following the earthquake of 12 January 2010. It recognizes that the full enjoyment of civil and political, economic, social and cultural human rights is a factor in peace, stability and development in Haiti.

9. The Council encourages the international community as a whole and, in particular, international donors, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the group of countries known as the Friends of Haiti and United Nations specialized agencies to step up their cooperation with the Haitian authorities with a view to the full realization in Haiti of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

10. The Council welcomes the request of the Haitian authorities for a one-year extension of the mission of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti, whose mandate concerns technical assistance and capacity-building, and decides to approve this request.

11. The Council encourages the independent expert to work with international institutions, donors and the international community to raise their awareness of the need to provide their expertise and sufficient resources to support the Haitian authorities' efforts to rebuild the country in the wake of the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

12. The Council also encourages the independent expert to continue to work with Haitian non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations in Haiti.

13. The Council invites the independent expert to assist the Government of Haiti to act upon the recommendations made in the course of the universal periodic review. He will also provide his experience, expertise and contribution to the cause of human rights, including civil and political rights and with particular emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, in Haiti.

14. The Council also invites the independent expert to submit his report at the twentieth session, to pursue his mission in Haiti in the near future and to report to the Council thereon at its twenty-second session. It encourages the Haitian authorities to continue to cooperate with the independent expert."

*55th meeting
23 March 2012*

Part Two

Summary of proceedings

I. Organizational and procedural matters

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Human Rights Council held its nineteenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 27 February to 23 March 2012. The President of the Council opened the session.
2. At the 1st meeting, on 27 February 2012, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the President of the General Assembly and the Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Didier Burkhalter, addressed the plenary.
3. In accordance with rule 8 (b) of the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, as contained in part VII of the annex to Council resolution 5/1, the organizational meeting of the nineteenth session was held on 13 February 2012.
4. The nineteenth session consisted of 55 meetings held over 20 days (see paragraph 39 below).

B. Attendance

5. The session was attended by representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States of the Council, observers for non-Member States of the United Nations and other observers, as well as observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations (see annex I).

C. High-level segment

6. At its 1st, 3rd, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th and 12th meetings, held from 27 February to 1 March 2012, the Human Rights Council held a high-level segment at which 83 dignitaries addressed the plenary, including 1 vice-president, 2 prime ministers, 5 vice-prime ministers, 49 ministers, 11 vice-ministers and 6 representatives of observer organizations.
7. The following dignitaries addressed the Human Rights Council during the high-level segment, in the order that they spoke:
 - (a) At the 1st meeting, on 27 February 2012: the Vice-President of Colombia, Angelino Garzon; the Minister for Human Rights of Iraq, Mohamed Shiaa Al-Sudani; the Minister for Justice of Mozambique, Maria Benvinda Levi; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Uruguay, Luis Almagro; the Minister for State and Foreign Affairs of Qatar, Khaled Bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah; the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Jeremy Browne; the Secretary-General of Organisation internationale de la Francophonie, Abdou Diouf; the First Lady of Mexico and President of the National System for the Family of Mexico, Margarita Zavala; and the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

(b) At the 3rd meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Yerzhan Kazykhanov; the Minister for Justice of Chile, Teodoro Ribera Neumann; the Minister for Plantation Industries and Special Envoy of the President on Human Rights of Sri Lanka, Mahinda Samarasinghe; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Italy, Giulio Terzi di Sant'Agata; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, Anifah Aman; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand, Surapong Tovichakchaikul; the Minister for Human Rights of Yemen, Huriyah Mashhoor; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi; the Minister, head of the Human Rights Secretariat of Brazil, Maria do Rosário Nunes; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, Enrique Castillo Barrants; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Affairs of France, Alain Juppé; the Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Saudi Arabia, Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Aban; the State Secretary at the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs of Austria, Wolfgang Waldner; and the Vice-Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs of the Republic of Korea, Bong-Hyun Kim;

(c) At the 6th meeting, on 28 February 2012: the Prime Minister of Slovakia, Iveta Radičová; the Prime Minister of Libya, Abderrahim Al-Keib; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Karl Erjavec; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cameroon, Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo; the Minister for State and Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Paulo Sacadura Cabral Portas; the Minister for Justice of Mali, Maharafa Traore; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Jordan, Nasser Judeh; the Minister for Justice of Morocco, Mustafa Ramid; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia, Marty M. Natalegawa; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Namibia, Utoni Nujoma; the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany, Kristina Schröder; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Mourad Medelci; the Minister for Human Rights and Social Development of Bahrain, Fatima Al Balooshi; the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of Spain, Gonzalo de Benito Secades; the Parliamentary Senior Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ryuji Yamane; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway, Gry Larsen; the Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu;

(d) At the 7th meeting, on 29 February 2012: the Vice Prime Minister in charge of Social Affairs and Human Rights of Equatorial Guinea, Salomon Nguema Owono; the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Congo, Basile Ikouebe; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Villy Sovndal; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Serbia, Vuk Jeremić; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Uri Rosenthal; the Minister for Human Rights of Tunisia, Samir Dilou; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, Carl Bildt; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, Iurie Leanca; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Lithuania, Asta Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Gennady Gatilov; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Ashot Hovakimian; the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Karel Schwarzenberg; the Minister for European Affairs of Ireland, Lucinda Creighton; Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation of South Africa, Marius Fransman; Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Kamallesh Sharma; Secretary of State for External Relations of Angola, Rui Jorge Carneiro Mangureira; and the Minister for National Solidarity, Human Rights and Gender of Burundi, Clotilde Niragira;

(e) At the 9th meeting, on the same day: the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus, Erato Kazakou-Markoullis; the Minister for Defence, Justice and Security of Botswana, Dikgakgamatso N. Seretse; the Minister for Justice, Legislation and Human Rights of Benin, Marie-Elise Gbedo; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Estonia, Urmas Paet; the Minister for Foreign and European Affairs of Croatia, Vesna Pusić; the Minister for Justice and Human Rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Luzolo Bambi

Lessa; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, Harold Caballeros; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Nikola Poposki; the Chairman of the National Centre for Human Rights of Uzbekistan, Akmal Saidov; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, Le Luong Minh; the State Secretary for Political Affairs of Montenegro, Nebojša Kaluderović; the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Temir Porras Ponceleón; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ana Trišić Babić; the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, Ruslan Kazakbaev; the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Akin Fayomi; and the Commissioner for Political Affairs of the African Union, Julia D. Joiner;

(f) At the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2012: the Minister for Justice and Legal Affairs of Zimbabwe, Patrick Antony Chinamasa; the State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Maldives, Dunya Maumoon; the Commissioner for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society of Mauritania, Mohamed Abdallahi Ould Khattria; the Minister for Justice of the Sudan, Mohamed Bushara Dousa; and the Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba, Abelardo Moreno;

(g) At the 12th meeting, on the same day: the Vice-Prime Minister, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Belgium, Didier Reynders; the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Zsolt Németh; the Under-Secretary of State at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Poland, Grażyna Bernatowicz; and the Assistant High Commissioner for Protection of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

8. At the 3rd meeting, on 27 February 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Israel, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

9. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

10. At the 6th meeting, on 28 February 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan.

11. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan.

12. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

13. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Panel discussion on sport and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

14. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February 2012, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 18/23, the Council held a panel discussion on the theme of promoting the awareness and application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through sport and the Olympic ideal. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made introductory remarks for the panel. Jeremy Browne moderated the discussion and made a statement. At the same meeting, the panellists Keith Mills, Carlos Nuzman and Vladimir Lukin made statements.

15. At the same meeting, a short film on the subject of the panel discussion was broadcast.

16. During the ensuing panel discussion, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Norway (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden), Qatar;

(b) Representatives of the following observer States: Azerbaijan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Greece;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, European Disability Forum (also on behalf of the International Disability Alliance).

17. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

Panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming and international cooperation

18. At the 4th meeting, on 28 February 2012, pursuant to the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21, the Council held a panel discussion on the promotion of human rights mainstreaming and international cooperation. The Council listened to a video message from the Secretary-General on the subject of the panel discussion and the High Commissioner made introductory remarks.

19. At the same meeting, the panellists Jordan Ryan (United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)), Flavia Bustreo (World Health Organization (WHO)), Marie-Pierre Poirier (United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)), Constance Thomas (International Labour Organization (ILO)), Siobhan McInerney-Lankford (World Bank) and Barbara Ekwall (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) made statements.

20. During the ensuing panel discussion, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, China, Cuba, Egypt⁷² (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Pakistan⁷² (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of the following observer States: Algeria, Brazil, Morocco, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, New Zealand (also on behalf of Australia and Canada), Turkey, Uzbekistan;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: Coordination Committee of Special Procedures;

(d) Representative of an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for national human rights institutions: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions.

21. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

⁷² Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

D. General segment

22. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the general segment was held, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Ecuador, India, Romania;

(b) Representatives of the following observer States: Albania, Argentina, Barbados, Belarus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Honduras, Luxemburg, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates;

(c) Observer for the Holy See;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

(e) Invited members of civil society: Hossam Bahgat, Maryam Al-Khawaja, Marcos Orellana, and Haifa Zangana.

23. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

24. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

E. Agenda and programme of work

25. The agenda of the nineteenth session was as contained in the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 (see annex II).

26. At its 13th meeting, on 2 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted the programme of work for the nineteenth session.

27. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement in relation to the programme of work.

28. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a statement in relation to the Council task force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and the use of information technology.

F. Organization of work

29. At the 2nd meeting, on 27 February 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the panel discussion on the promotion of awareness and application of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

30. At the 4th meeting, on 28 February 2012, and at the 11th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the interactive debate of panel discussions, which would be seven minutes for panellists, three minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

31. At the 5th meeting, on 29 February 2012, and at the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the urgent debate on the human rights and

humanitarian situations in the Syrian Arab Republic, which would be two minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

32. At the 11th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the President revised the modalities for the annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities, which would be seven minutes for panellists, three minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

33. At the 12th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the general segment, which would be five minutes for statements by States Members of the Human Rights Council and three minutes for statements by observer States and other observers.

34. At the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the interactive dialogue on the annual report of the High Commissioner, which would be three minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

35. At the 15th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the general debate, which would be three minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council and two minutes for observer States and other observers.

36. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders, which would be 10 minutes for the presentation by the mandate holder of the main report, with a further 2 minutes to present each additional report; 5 minutes for the countries concerned, if any, and for States Members of the Human Rights Council; 3 minutes for statements by observer States of the Council and other observers, including United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations, intergovernmental organizations and other entities, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations; and 5 minutes for concluding remarks by the mandate holder.

37. At the 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the President outlined the modalities for the consideration of the outcomes of the universal periodic review under agenda item 6, which would be 20 minutes for the State concerned to present its views, 20 minutes for States Members of the Human Rights Council, observer States and United Nations agencies to express their views on the outcome of the review, and 20 minutes for stakeholders to make general comments on the outcome of the review. Speaking time would be three minutes for States Members of the Council and two minutes for observer States and stakeholders.

38. At the 15th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the President made a statement in relation to alleged acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals or non-governmental organizations participating in the work of the Human Rights Council.

G. Meetings and documentation

39. The Human Rights Council held 55 fully serviced meetings during its nineteenth session.

40. The resolutions, decisions and President's statements adopted by the Human Rights Council are contained in Part One of the present report.

41. The list of documents distributed for the nineteenth session is contained in annex III.

H. Visits

42. At the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2012, the Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights of the United States of America, Maria Otero, delivered a statement to the Human Rights Council.

43. At the 14th meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Sri Lanka.

I. Urgent debate on the human rights and humanitarian situations in the Syrian Arab Republic

44. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February 2012, the President of the Human Rights Council announced that, following a request received from Bahrain, Denmark (on behalf of the European Union), Egypt, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America, the Council would convene, in the afternoon of 28 February 2012, an urgent debate on the human rights and humanitarian situations in the Syrian Arab Republic.

45. At its 5th meeting, on 28 February 2012, the Human Rights Council held an urgent debate on the human rights and humanitarian situations in the Syrian Arab Republic. The President of the General Assembly made introductory remarks for the debate. The High Commissioner also made a statement.

46. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

47. During the ensuing discussion at the same meeting, the 6th meeting on the same day and the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Mauritania (on behalf of the Arab Group), Mexico, Nigeria, Norway (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Sweden), Peru, Poland, Portugal⁷² (on behalf of the European Union), Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for the Holy See;

(d) Representatives of non-governmental organizations: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights Watch, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights, Nord-Sud XXI, Press Emblem Campaign, Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch.

J. Election of a member of the Advisory Committee

48. At its 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the Human Rights Council elected, pursuant to Council resolution 5/1, an expert to the Advisory Committee. The Council has before it a note by the Secretary-General (A/HRC/19/81) containing the nomination by the Philippines of the candidate, Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing, for election, in accordance with Council decision 6/102, and the biographical data of the candidate.

49. The number of candidates for the regional group corresponds to the number of seats to be filled. The practice of holding a secret ballot pursuant to paragraph 70 of Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 was dispensed with and Ms. Quisumbing was elected as a member of the Advisory Committee by consensus (see annex IV).

K. Selection and appointment of mandate holders

50. At its 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the Human Rights Council appointed special procedures mandate holders in accordance with Council resolution 5/1 (see annex V).

51. At the same meeting, the representative of India made a statement in relation to the appointment of special procedures mandate holders.

L. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

The escalating grave human rights violations and deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic

52. At the 10th meeting, on 1 March 2012, the representative of Turkey introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.1/Rev.1, sponsored by Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Latvia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Mauritius, Montenegro, Palestine and Senegal joined the sponsors.

53. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made a general comment in relation to the draft resolution.

54. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, Cuba, Ecuador and Thailand made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

55. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the Russian Federation, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.1/Rev.1. The draft resolution was adopted by 37 votes in favour, 3 against, with 3 abstentions.⁷³

⁷³ At the same meeting, Burkina Faso and Kyrgyzstan declared that they had not been present during the vote, but had they been present, they would have voted in favour of the resolution; Angola declared that its representatives had not been present during the vote, but had he been present, he would have abstained.

56. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bangladesh and the Czech Republic (on behalf of members of the European Union that are members of the Council) made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

57. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/1.

Task force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology

58. At the 51st meeting, on 21 March 2012, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced a draft decision on the task force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology.

59. At the same meeting, the draft decision was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II, decision19/119).

60. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a statement in relation to the adopted decision.

M. Adoption of the report of the session

61. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the President of the Human Rights Council made a statement regarding the tentative yearly voluntary calendar of thematic resolutions.

62. At the same meeting, the representatives of Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe made statements with regard to adopted resolutions and the session.

63. Also at the same meeting, the Rapporteur and Vice-President of the Human Rights Council made a statement in connection with the draft report of the Council.

64. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council adopted draft report ad referendum, and the Human Rights Council entrusted the Rapporteur with the finalization of the report.

65. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the International Service for Human Rights (also on behalf of Amnesty International, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the Human Rights House Foundation and the International Federation of Human Rights), the Indian Council of South America and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples made general comments in connection with the session.

66. At the same meeting, the representative of Afghanistan made a statement with regard to the celebration of the International Day of Nowruz.

67. Also at the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council made a closing statement.

II. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

A. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

68. At the 13th meeting, on 2 March 2012, the High Commissioner made a statement in connection with her annual report (A/HRC/19/21).

69. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 13th and 14th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the High Commissioner questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark⁷² (on behalf of the European Union and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Ecuador, Egypt⁷² (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), India, Indonesia, Maldives, Malaysia, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan⁷² (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru, Philippines, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Poland, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, Republic of Korea, Romania, Rwanda, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan;

(c) Observers for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Federation, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, International Service for Human Rights, International Society for Human Rights (also on behalf of the Indian Council of South America), Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada, Liberation, Nord-Sud XXI, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Society for Threatened Peoples, Touro Law Center-Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, United Nations Watch.

70. At the 14th meeting, on the same day, the High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

71. At the 15th meeting, on 5 March 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representative of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic.

72. At the same meeting, a statement in exercise of a second right of reply was made by the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic.

B. Reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General and general debate on agenda item 2

73. At the 15th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights presented thematic reports prepared by OHCHR and the Secretary-General.

74. During the ensuing general debate on thematic reports, at the same meeting, statements were made by the following:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Cuba, India, Libya, Maldives, Mauritius, Pakistan⁷² (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Spain, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Caritas Internationalis (also on behalf of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Association Points-Coeur, Dominicans for Justice and Peace-Order of Preachers, Dominican Leadership Conference, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS, International Catholic Child Bureau, International Catholic Rural Association, International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, New Humanity and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, European Union of Public Relations, Human Rights Watch, Indian Council of South America, International Commission of Jurists, International Federation of Journalists, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Movement ATD Fourth World (also on behalf of Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Franciscans International and the International Catholic Child Bureau), International Institute for Peace, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (also on behalf of France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand and Society for Threatened Peoples), Nord-Sud XXI, Reporters Without Borders International, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Environment and Resources Council, World Muslim Congress.

75. At the 44th meeting, on 19 March 2012, the High Commissioner presented reports concerning the situation of human rights in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories, prepared by the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General.

76. At the 49th meeting, on 21 March 2012, the Deputy High Commissioner introduced country-specific reports submitted under agenda item 2. (A/HRC/19/21/Add.1-4, A/HRC/19/22 and A/HRC/19/82).

77. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Cyprus, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and Nepal made statements as States concerned.

78. During the ensuing general debate on the reports, at the same meeting, and at the 51st meeting on the same day, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Greece, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observers for national human rights institutions: Australian Human Rights Commission, Network of African National Human Rights Institutions;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Columbian Commission of Jurists, Human Rights Watch, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

79. At the 51st meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Colombia.

C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka

80. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of the United States of America introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.2, sponsored by the United States. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

81. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of members of the European Union that are members of the Council), China, Cuba and the Czech Republic made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

82. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Sri Lanka made a statement as the State concerned.

83. At the same meeting, the representatives of Angola, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mexico, Nigeria, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Thailand, Uganda and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

84. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.2. The draft resolution was adopted by 24 votes in favour, 15 against, with 8 abstentions.

85. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/2.

86. At the same meeting, the representatives of India made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

87. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.19, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and

Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Angola, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Maldives, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Rwanda, South Africa and the Sudan joined the sponsors.

88. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of members of the European Union that are members of the Council) and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

89. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Belgium, on behalf of members of the European Union that are members of the Council, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.19. The draft resolution was adopted by 33 votes in favour, 12 against, with 2 abstentions.

90. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/3.

President's statement

91. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced a draft statement.

92. At the same meeting, the draft statement was adopted by the Human Rights Council (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter III, PRST/19/1).

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

A. Panel discussions

Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet

93. At the 8th meeting, on 29 February 2012, pursuant to Human Rights Council decision 18/119, the Council held a panel discussion on the promotion and protection of freedom of expression on the Internet, focusing on ways and means to improve its protection in accordance with international human rights law. The High Commissioner made introductory remarks for the discussion. Riz Khan of *Al Jazeera* moderated the discussion. At the same meeting, the panellists Carlos Afonso, Hesti Armiwulan, Carl Bildt, William Echikson, Anriette Esterhuysen and Frank La Rue made statements.

94. During the ensuing panel discussion, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Norway, Peru, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Azerbaijan, Canada, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Morocco, Netherlands, Turkey;

(c) Representatives of observer intergovernmental organizations: Council of Europe, European Union;

(d) Observer for a national human rights institution: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;

(e) Representatives of observer non-governmental organizations: Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights House Foundation, Internet Society, Press Emblem Campaign.

95. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made concluding remarks.

Annual discussion on human rights and persons with disabilities

96. At the 11th meeting, on 1 March 2012, pursuant to its resolution 16/15, the Human Rights Council held an annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities. The High Commissioner made introductory remarks for the discussion. At the same meeting, the panellists Theresia Degener, Shantha Rau Barriga and Patrick Clark made statements. Also at the same meeting, a video message from María Alejandra Villanueva of the Peruvian Down Syndrome Society was shown.

97. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Indonesia, Mexico, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Uruguay;

- (b) Representatives of observer States: Argentina, Brazil, Ethiopia, New Zealand;
- (c) Representatives of United Nations agencies: UNICEF;
- (d) Representative of national human rights institutions: International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions;
- (e) Observer for a non-governmental organization: All Russian Society of the Deaf.

98. At the end of the first slot, Signmark and hip-hop artist Brandon conducted a musical performance.

99. During the panel discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ecuador, Peru, Senegal, Thailand;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Morocco, Pakistan, South Africa, Turkey;
- (c) Representative of a national human rights institution: National Council for Human Rights of Morocco;
- (d) Observer for a non-governmental organization: International Humanist and Ethical Union.

100. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

Panel discussion on discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity

101. At the 22nd meeting, on 7 March 2012, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 17/19, the Council held a panel discussion on discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made introductory remarks for the discussion. The Permanent Representative of South Africa, Abdul Minty, moderated the discussion. At the same meeting, the panellists Hans Ytterberg, Hina Jilani, Irina Karla Bacci and Laurence Helfer made statements.

102. At the same meeting, a video message from the Secretary-General was shown.

103. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR)), Austria, Cuba, Ecuador, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Russian Federation, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Ireland, Israel, Sweden;
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

⁷⁴ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(d) Representative of a national human rights institution: Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, International Commission of Jurists (also on behalf of Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch), International Lesbian and Gay Association (also on behalf of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, Human Rights First, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the Lesbian and Gay Federation in Germany and the Swedish Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Rights).

104. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

105. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Mexico, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Croatia, Estonia, Finland, France, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Portugal, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS);

(e) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network (also on behalf of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género, the International Alliance of Women, Madre Inc. and the World Organization Against Torture).

106. Also at the same meeting, the Permanent Representative of Brazil, Maria Nazareth Farani Azevedo, made concluding remarks.

Annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child

107. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/12, an annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child was held, on 8 March 2012. The topic of discussion was children and the administration of justice. The meeting was divided into two panel discussions: the first panel discussion was held at the 24th meeting, on 8 March 2012; the second panel discussion was held at the 26th meeting, on the same day.

108. At the 24th meeting, the High Commissioner made introductory remarks for the first panel discussion. At the same meeting, the panellists of the first panel, Antonio Caparros Linares, Susan Bissell, Jorge Cardona, Julia Sloth Nielsen, Connie de la Vega and Renate Winter made statements.

109. During the ensuing panel discussion, for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Cuba, Guatemala, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Thailand;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Paraguay, Sudan;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, International Juvenile Justice Observatory (also on behalf of the Open Society Institute and Penal Reform International).

110. During the ensuing panel discussion, for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Uruguay (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: France, Honduras, Ireland, Namibia, Nepal, United Arab Emirates;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Advocates, Inc., Consortium for Street Children.

111. At the same meeting, the panellists of the first panel answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

112. At the 26th meeting, on the same day, Sandeep Chawla, Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), made introductory remarks and moderated for the second panel discussion. The panellists of the second panel, Abdul Manaff Kemokai, Marta Santos Pais, Luis Pedernera, Dainius Puras and Rani Shankardass, made statements. The Human Rights Council divided the second panel discussion into two slots, both held at the 26th meeting.

113. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second panel, for the first slot, at the 26th meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Norway, Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Brazil, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Friends World Committee for Consultation (also on behalf of the International Catholic Child Bureau and SOS Kinderdorf International), Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of Nord-Sud XXI).

114. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second panel, for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Chile, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Maldives, Russian Federation, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Tunisia, Turkey;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: ILO;

(d) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Defence for Children International.

115. At the same meeting, the panellists of the second panel answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

Panel discussion to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities

116. At the 33rd meeting, on 13 March 2012, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 18/3, the Council held a panel discussion to commemorate the adoption of the twentieth anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. The Deputy High Commissioner made introductory remarks for the discussion. The Director of Minority Rights Group International, Mark Lattimer, moderated the discussion. At the same meeting, the panellists Joshua Castellino, Rita Izsák, Soyata Maiga and Pastor Elias Murillo Martinez made statements.

117. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, China, Costa Rica, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Pakistan⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Russian Federation, United States of America;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of);
- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

118. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions.

119. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ecuador, India, Norway, Romania;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Ethiopia, Greece, Honduras, Latvia, Morocco, Nepal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka.

120. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions.

Panel discussion to give voice to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS

121. At the 47th meeting, on 20 March 2012, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 16/28, the Council held a panel discussion to give voice to people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. The High Commissioner made introductory remarks for the discussion. The African Union Commissioner for Social Affairs and Commissioner of the Global Commission on HIV and Law, Bience Philomina Gawanas, moderated the discussion. At the same meeting, the panellists Paul De Lay, Nontobeko Dlamini, Nick Rhoades, Dmytro Sherembei and Moysés Toniolo made statements.

122. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Uruguay;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Morocco;

- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNDP;
- (e) Observer for a national human rights institution: National Human Rights Council of Morocco;
- (f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Conectas Direitos Humanos.

123. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions.

124. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Chile, Mexico, Russian Federation, Spain, United States of America;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, France, Georgia, Honduras, Kenya;
- (c) Observers for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: ILO, UNICEF.

125. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made concluding remarks.

B. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders

Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

126. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, Juan Ernesto Mendez, presented his reports (A/HRC/19/61 and Add.1–5).

127. At the same meeting, the representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Tunisia made statements as States concerned.

128. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 17th meeting on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Belgium, Botswana, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Republic of Moldova, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay;
- (b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Argentina, Bahrain, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Morocco, Nepal, Paraguay, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uzbekistan;
- (c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie;
- (d) Observer for a national human rights institution: National Human Rights Council of Morocco;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: American Civil Liberties Union (also on behalf of the Indian Council of South America), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, World Organization against Torture.

129. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

130. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Belarus and China.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

131. At the 16th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya, presented her reports (A/HRC/19/55 and Add.1–2).

132. At the same meeting, the representative of India made a statement as the State concerned.

133. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 17th meeting on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁴ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Poland, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, Honduras, Ireland, Morocco, Nepal, Tunisia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (also on behalf of the Asian Centre for Human Rights, the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative and the Habitat International Coalition), Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Colombian Commission of Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (also on behalf of the World Organization against Torture), International Service for Human Rights.

134. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

135. Also at the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Belarus.

Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

136. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, Jeremy Sarkin, presented the reports of the Working Group (A/HRC/19/58/Rev.1 and Add.1–4).

137. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Congo, Mexico and Timor-Leste made statements as the States concerned. Also at the same meeting, the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice of Timor-Leste (by video message) and the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico made statements.

138. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the 18th and 19th meetings, on 6 March 2012, the following made statements and asked the Chairperson-Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina⁷⁵ (on behalf of MERCOSUR and Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Chile, Ecuador and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Austria, Belgium, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Bahrain, Colombia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism.

139. At the 19th meeting, the Chairperson-Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

140. At the 20th meeting, on the same day, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Japan.

141. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Japan.

Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief

142. At the 17th meeting, on 5 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, Heiner Bielefeldt, presented his reports (A/HRC/19/60 and Add.1-3).

143. At the same meeting, the representative of Paraguay made a statement as a State concerned.

144. At the 18th meeting, on 6 March 2012, the representative of the Republic of Moldova made a statement as a State concerned.

145. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 18th and 19th meetings, on 6 March 2012, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of the following observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Luxembourg, Morocco, Netherlands, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

⁷⁵ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Human Rights First, International Fellowship of Reconciliation, Jubilee Campaign, International Humanist and Ethical Union.

146. At the 19th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

147. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Nigeria, Romania and Serbia.

Special Rapporteur on the right to food

148. At the 19th meeting, on 6 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Olivier De Schutter, presented his reports (A/HRC/19/59 and Add.1–6).

149. At the same meeting, the representatives of China, Madagascar, Mexico and South Africa made a statement as States concerned.

150. Also at the same meeting, the Human Rights Commission of South Africa delivered a video message to the Human Rights Council.

151. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 19th and 20th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Argentina⁷⁵ (on behalf of MERCOSUR, Chile and Colombia), Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Luxembourg, Morocco, New Zealand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: WHO;

(d) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Canners International Permanent Committee, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities) (also on behalf of Association Points-Coeur, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Church World Service, the Dominican Leadership Conference, Dominicans for Justice and Peace-Order of Preachers, Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Catholic Rural Association, the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, New Humanity, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, Pax Christi International, the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations), Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, ONG Hope International, Save the Children International (also on behalf of World Vision International).

152. At the 20th meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

153. At the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of China.

Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context

154. At the 19th meeting, on 6 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, Raquel Rolnik, presented her reports (A/HRC/19/53 and Add.1–3).

155. At the same meeting, the representatives of Algeria and Argentina made statements as States concerned.

156. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the 19th and 20th meetings, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Bangladesh, Chile, China, Cuba, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Saudi Arabia, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for Palestine;

(d) Observer for Holy See;

(e) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(f) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Conectas Direitos Humanos.

157. At the 20th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

158. At the 20th meeting, on 6 March 2012, a member of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Mads Andenas, presented the reports of the Working Group (A/HRC/19/57 and Add.1–4).

159. At the 21st meeting, on 7 March 2012, the representatives of Germany and Georgia made statements as States concerned.

160. At the same meeting, the Public Defender of Human Rights of Georgia (by video message) and the German Institute for Human Rights made statements.

161. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Working Group questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, China, Cuba, Hungary, Malaysia, Maldives, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Greece, Morocco, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Canners International Permanent Committee, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (also on behalf of the American Association of Jurists, International Educational Development, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and the World Federation of Trade Unions), Human Rights Advocates, Inc., United Schools International, World Federation of Trade Unions (also on behalf of the American Association of Jurists, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples).

162. At the 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2012, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Uzbekistan.

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons

163. At the 21st meeting, on 7 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Chaloka Beyani, presented his reports (A/HRC/19/54 and Add.1 and 2).

164. At the same meeting, the representatives of Kenya and of Maldives made a statement as States concerned.

165. Also at the same meeting, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights made a statement.

166. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Bangladesh, China, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Georgia, France, Morocco, Sri Lanka;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union.

167. At the 23rd meeting, on the same day, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

168. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Russian Federation.

169. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation.

Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

170. At the 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, Najat Maalla M'jid, presented her reports (A/HRC/19/63 and Add.1 and 2).

171. At the same meeting, the representatives of France and Mauritius made statements as States concerned.

172. Also at the same meeting, the Commission on Human Rights of France made a statement.

173. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2012, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru, Russian Federation, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Spain, United States of America, Uruguay (also on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Egypt, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer of an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(e) Observer for a non-governmental organization: Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of International Educational Development, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations and Nord-Sud XXI).

174. At the 25th meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

Independent expert on minority issues

175. At the 35th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the independent expert on minority issues, Rita Izsák, presented her reports (A/HRC/19/56 and Add.1 and 2).

176. At the same meeting, the representatives of Bulgaria and Rwanda made statements as States concerned.

177. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 36th meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the independent expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Hungary, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁵ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Romania, Russian Federation, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Armenia, Canada, Croatia, Greece, Latvia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Viet Nam;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for the Holy See;

(e) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Legal Resource Centre (also on behalf of the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism), Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

178. At the 36th meeting, the independent expert answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

179. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China, Georgia and the Russian Federation.

180. Also at the same meeting, a statement in exercise of a second right of reply was made by the representative of Georgia.

C. Interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

181. At the 23rd meeting, on 7 March 2012, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Marta Santos Pais, presented her report (A/HRC/19/64).

182. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, and at the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2012, the following made statements and asked the Special Representative questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Angola, Austria, Belgium, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan⁷⁶ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Peru, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Spain, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay (also on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, Belarus, Croatia, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Portugal, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey;

(c) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF;

(d) Observer for the Holy See;

(e) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation (also on behalf of the International Association for Religious Freedom), Defence for Children International (also on behalf of the International Catholic Child Bureau, International Federation Terre des Hommes, Save the Children International and the World Organization against Torture), Franciscans International (also on behalf of Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS and World Vision International), International Institute for Peace, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Plan International, Inc. (also on behalf of Child Helpline International, Fundación Intervida, the International Council of Women, Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation) and Save the Children International), Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of International Educational Development, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations and Nord-Sud XXI).

183. At the 25th meeting, the Special Representative answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

D. General debate on agenda item 3

184. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2012, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, Tamara Kunanayakam, presented the report of the Working Group on its twelfth session (A/HRC/19/52 and Corr.1).

⁷⁶ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

185. At the same meeting, at the 27th meeting, on 9 March 2012, and at the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2012, the Council held a general debate on agenda item 3, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Costa Rica (also on behalf of Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Germany, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland and Uruguay), Denmark⁷⁶ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Egypt⁷⁶ (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Cuba, Djibouti, India, Indonesia, Libya, Mexico (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam), Morocco⁷⁶ (on behalf of the Platform on Human Rights Education and Training), Norway, Qatar, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Spain (on behalf of the Blue Group), Sweden⁷⁶ (also on behalf of Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway), Russian Federation, the United States of America (also on behalf of Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observer for United Nations entities, specialized agencies and related organizations: UNICEF (also on behalf of UNHCR, United Nations Population Fund and WHO);

(e) Observer for the Holy See;

(f) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Agence internationale pour le développement, Amnesty International, Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network (also on behalf of Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights and Society for Threatened Peoples), Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of Association Points-Coeur, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers, Fondazione S.A.V.E. (Scienza, Allenza, Vita, Ambiente), the International Association of Charities, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Catholic Migration Commission, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development and New Humanity), Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for

Environmental and Management Studies, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, China Association for the Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture, China NGO Network for International Exchanges, CIVICUS-World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Commission to Study the Organization of Peace, Conectas Direitos Humanos, European Region of the International Lesbian and Gay Federation, European Union of Public Relations, France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (also on behalf of the American Association of Jurists and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples), Franciscans International (also on behalf of Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS), Friends World Committee for Consultation, Human Rights Advocates Inc., Human Rights Watch, International Association for Democracy in Africa, Indian Council of Education, Indian Council of South America, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (also on behalf of the American Association of Jurists), International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Educational Development, Inc., International Fellowship of Reconciliation (also on behalf of the Friends World Committee for Consultation), International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (also on behalf of the International Muslim Women Union), International Humanist and Ethical Union (also on behalf of the Center for Inquiry), International Institute for Non-Aligned Studies, International Institute for Peace, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, Iranian Elite Research Center, Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, Lawyers Rights' Watch Canada, Liberation, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (also on behalf of France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand and International Educational Development), Nord-Sud XXI, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale, Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (also on behalf of the African Association of Education for Development and the American Association of Jurists), Press Emblem Campaign, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Society for Threatened Peoples, Save a Child's Heart in Memory of Dr. Ami Cohen, Soka Gakkai International (also on behalf of the Al-Khakim Foundation, the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center, the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Association apprentissage sans frontières, Association Points-Coeur, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies, Human Rights Education Associates, International Association for Religious Freedom, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, Institute for Planetary Synthesis, Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation), ONG Hope International, Planetary Association for Clean Energy, Servas International, Soroptimist International, Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem, Teresian Association, the Salvation Army, Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of the Arab Lawyers Union), United Nations Association of China, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Universal Peace Federation, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, Women's Federation for World Peace International and Women's World Summit Foundation), World Environment and Resources Council, World Muslim Congress, World Russian Peoples Council.

186. At the 25th meeting, on 8 March 2012, a short film on safe drinking water and sanitation was shown to the Human Rights Council.

187. At the 27th meeting, on 9 March 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Brazil and China.

188. At the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of China and the Holy See.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living in the context of disaster settings

189. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Finland, also on behalf of Germany, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.4, sponsored by Germany and Finland and co-sponsored by Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, France, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Monaco, Montenegro, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Andorra, Morocco, the Netherlands, Rwanda, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia and Turkey joined the sponsors.

190. At the same meeting, the representative of Finland orally revised the draft resolution.

191. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

192. At the same meeting, the representatives of India and Saudi Arabia (also on behalf of Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Yemen) made statements in explanation of vote before the vote, disassociating themselves from the consensus in relation to the seventh preambular paragraph of the draft resolution.

193. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/4).

Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights

194. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Portugal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.10/Rev.1, sponsored by Portugal and co-sponsored by Albania, Angola, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nicaragua, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Peru, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Belarus, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Estonia, Guinea, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Panama, South Africa, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Tunisia joined the sponsors.

195. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

196. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

197. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/5).

Mandate of Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights

198. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.18, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Austria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, the Congo, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, France, Georgia, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Palestine, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Angola, Bangladesh, China, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Nigeria, Senegal, the Sudan and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

199. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

200. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/6).

The right to food

201. At the 52nd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.21, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, China, the Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Luxembourg, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Belgium, Cambodia, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, Greece, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, the Sudan, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland joined the sponsors.

202. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba orally revised the draft resolution.

203. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of Members of the European Union that are Members of the Council), Uganda and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

204. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/7).

Freedom of religion or belief

205. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Denmark, on behalf of the European Union and co-sponsors, introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.23, sponsored by Denmark, on behalf of the European Union, and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, Norway, Peru, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the

United States of America. Subsequently, Andorra, Armenia, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Japan, Monaco, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

206. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/8).

Birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law

207. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.24, sponsored by Mexico and Turkey and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Maldives, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Ghana, Hungary, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), the Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Ukraine, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

208. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/9).

Human rights and the environment

209. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representatives of Maldives and Costa Rica introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.8/Rev.1, sponsored by Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Germany, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Peru, Slovenia, Switzerland and Uruguay, and co-sponsored by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cambodia, Chad, the Congo, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, France, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Montenegro, Nigeria, Palestine, Panama, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Somalia, Spain, the Sudan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Angola, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Finland, Ghana, Guinea, Italy, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, Monaco, Norway, Qatar, the Republic of Moldova, Senegal, the Solomon Islands, Uganda and Yemen joined the sponsors.

210. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

211. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/10).

Rights of persons with disabilities: participation in political and public life

212. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.9/Rev.1, sponsored by Mexico and New Zealand and co-sponsored by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia,

Cuba, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Djibouti, Egypt, Estonia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Luxembourg, Malta, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Senegal, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Uganda, the United States of America and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

213. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Philippines and of Uganda made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

214. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

215. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/11).

Promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

216. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Mexico introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.25/Rev.1, sponsored by Mexico and co-sponsored by Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Greece, Guatemala, Ireland, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Brazil, Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Sweden, Tunisia, Turkey and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

217. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/19).

The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

218. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Poland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.26, sponsored by Poland and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Botswana, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Canada, Cape Verde, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Libya, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Qatar, Rwanda, Serbia, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, the United States of America, Uruguay and Yemen joined the sponsors.

219. At the same meeting, the representative of Poland orally revised the draft resolution.

220. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

221. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/20).

Integrity of the judicial system

222. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of the Russian Federation introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.5/Rev.1, sponsored by the Russian Federation. Subsequently, Belarus, Brazil, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Morocco, Serbia, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined the sponsors.

223. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation orally revised the draft resolution.

224. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of Members of the European Union that are Members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

225. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments, disassociating itself from consensus on the draft resolution.

226. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/31).

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

227. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Egypt introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.12, sponsored by Egypt, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Subsequently, Armenia joined the sponsors.

228. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt orally revised the draft resolution.

229. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

230. At the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium, on behalf of Members of the European Union that are Members of the Council, made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

231. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Belgium, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.12. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 35 votes in favour and 12 against.

232. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/32.

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

233. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Egypt introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.13/Rev.1, sponsored by Egypt, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Subsequently, Brazil and Serbia joined the sponsors.

234. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt orally revised the draft resolution.

235. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of Members of the European Union that are Members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

236. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

237. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/33).

The right to development

238. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Egypt introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.14, sponsored by Egypt, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Subsequently, Armenia, Brazil, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia joined the sponsors.

239. At the same meeting, the representative of Egypt orally revised the draft resolution.

240. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium, on behalf of Members of the European Union that are Members of the Council, and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

241. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 46 votes in favour, with 1 abstention.

242. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/34.

Promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests

243. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Switzerland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.17, sponsored by Costa Rica, Switzerland and Turkey and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia and Spain. Subsequently, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Djibouti, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Morocco, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Palestine, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

244. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland orally revised the draft resolution.

245. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

246. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/35).

Human rights, democracy and the rule of law

247. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Romania and Tunisia introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.27, sponsored by Morocco, Norway, Peru, Qatar, Romania and Tunisia and co-sponsored by Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Angola, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cape Verde, the Congo, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, El Salvador, Honduras, Japan, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Palestine, Panama, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Somalia, Thailand, the United States of America and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

248. At the same meeting, the representative of Romania orally revised the draft resolution.

249. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Cuba, Peru and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolutions.

250. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

251. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China and Ecuador made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

252. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 43 votes in favour, with 2 abstentions.

253. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/36.

Rights of the child

254. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Uruguay introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.31, sponsored by Denmark (on behalf of the European Union) and Uruguay (on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States) and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, the Congo, Croatia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Montenegro, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. Subsequently, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Egypt, Haiti, Jamaica, Lebanon, Morocco, Senegal, Somalia, Switzerland, Tunisia and Uganda joined the sponsors.

255. At the same meeting, the representative of Uruguay orally revised the draft resolution.

256. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Saudi Arabia (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

257. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/37).

258. At the same meeting, the representative of Switzerland made statements in explanation of vote after the vote.

The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights

259. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Egypt introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.16/Rev.1, sponsored by Senegal, on behalf of the Group of African States. Subsequently, Cuba and Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) joined the sponsors.

260. At the same meeting, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of Members of the European Union that are Members of the Council, made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

261. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

262. At the same meeting, the representatives of Norway and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

263. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by 35 votes in favour, 1 against, with 11 abstentions.

264. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/38.

IV. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

A. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

265. At the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Marzuki Darusman, presented his report (A/HRC/19/65).

266. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a statement as the State concerned.

267. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Kyrgyzstan, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of the following observer States: Australia, Belarus, Canada, France, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zimbabwe;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Human Rights Watch, United Nations Watch.

268. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

269. At the 30th meeting, on 12 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomas Ojea Quintana, presented his report (A/HRC/19/67).

270. At the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

271. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Cambodia⁷⁷ (on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Maldives, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of the following observer States: Australia, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Germany, Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

⁷⁷ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;
- (d) Representative from United Nations agencies: UNICEF;
- (e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (also on behalf of Conectas Direitos Humanos), Asian Legal Resource Centre, Human Rights Watch, International Educational Development, Inc., International Federation for Human Rights Leagues.

272. At the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

273. At the 30th meeting, on 12 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, presented his report (A/HRC/19/66).

274. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

275. During the ensuing interactive dialogue at the same meeting, and at the 31st meeting, on the same day, the following made statements and asked the Special Rapporteur questions:

- (a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Belgium, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Maldives, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America;

- (b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Pakistan, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe;

- (c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

- (d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Baha'i International Community, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Institute for Women's Studies and Research, Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

276. At the 31st meeting, the Special Rapporteur answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

277. At the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

B. Follow-up to the seventeenth and eighteenth special sessions of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

278. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2012, in accordance with the request made by the Human Rights Council in its resolution S-17/1, the President of the commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, Paulo Pinheiro, presented the report of the commission (A/HRC/19/69).

279. At the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner presented the report of the High Commissioner on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolution S-17/1

(A/HRC/19/79) and that of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution S-18/1 (A/HRC/19/80).

280. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

281. During the ensuing general debate at the same meeting, and at the 32nd meeting, on 13 March 2012, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria (also on behalf of Belgium, Botswana, Costa Rica, Croatia, France, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Maldives, New Zealand, Norway, Slovenia and Switzerland), Belgium, Botswana, Chile, China, Cuba, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Mexico, Norway, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Arab Lawyers Union, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, Liberal International (World Liberal Union), Press Emblem Campaign.

282. At the 32nd meeting, on 13 March 2012, the President of the commission of inquiry answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

283. At the same meeting, the Deputy High Commissioner answered questions and made her concluding remarks.

C. Follow-up to the fifteenth special session of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in Libya

284. At the 28th meeting, on 9 March 2012, the Chairperson of the commission of inquiry on Libya, Philippe Kirsch, presented the report of the commission (A/HRC/19/68).

285. At the same meeting, the representative of Libya made a statement as the State concerned.

286. During the ensuing general debate at the same meeting, and at the 29th meeting, on 12 March 2012, the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Belgium, Chile, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Qatar, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Human Rights Watch, International Educational Development, Inc. Reporters Sans Frontières International – Reporters Without Borders International.

287. At the 28th meeting, on 9 March 2012, the Chairperson answered questions.

D. General debate on agenda item 4

288. At the 32nd and 34th meetings, on 13 March 2012, and at the 35th meeting, on 14 March, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 4, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Belgium, China, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark⁷⁷ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Montenegro, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia), Ecuador, Hungary, Maldives, Norway, Poland, Somalia⁷⁷ (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America), Spain, Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Australia, Belarus, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Japan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Slovakia, Slovenia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: National Human Rights Commission of Korea;

(d) Observers for the following non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, African Association of Education for Development, Al Zubair Charitable Foundation (also on behalf of the Maarj Foundation for Peace and Development), American Association of Jurists (also on behalf of the International Association of Jurists, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and the World Federation of Trade Unions), Amnesty International, Arab Lawyers Union, Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network, Asian Legal Resource Centre, Baha'i International Community, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Canners International Permanent Committee, Center for Inquiry (also on behalf of the International Humanist Ethical Union), Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Centrist Democratic International, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, Democracy Coalition Project, Federation international des droits de l'homme, France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand (also on behalf of International Educational Development and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples), Freedom House, Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, Human Rights House Foundation (also on behalf of Be Active, Be Emancipated), Human Rights Watch, Indian Council of South America, Institute for Women's Studies and Research, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Buddhist Foundation, International Buddhist Relief Organisation,

International Commission of Jurists, International Committee for the Indians of the Americas (Switzerland), International Educational Development, Inc., International Humanist and Ethical Union, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, Iranian Elite Research Center, Islamic Human Rights Commission, Islamic Women's Institute of Iran, Jubilee Campaign, Lawyer's Rights Watch Canada, Liberation, Ligue internationale contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples (also on behalf of International Educational Development and the Women's Human Rights International Association), Nonviolent Radical Party, Transnational and Transparty, Nord-Sud XXI, Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique international, Physicians for Human Rights, Press Emblem Campaign, Regional Center for Human Rights and Gender Justice (also on behalf of Conectas Direitos Humanos), Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Reporters sans frontières international, Society for Threatened People (also on behalf of International Educational Development), Union of Arab Jurists, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Environment and Resources Council, World Muslim Congress.

289. At the 34th meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

290. At the same meeting, statements in exercise of a second right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Georgia and Japan.

291. At the 35th meeting, on 14 March 2012, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of Burkina Faso, China, Ethiopia, Honduras, Morocco, Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

292. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Sweden introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.22, sponsored by Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America, and co-sponsored by Australia, Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Subsequently, Andorra and Israel joined the sponsors.

293. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

294. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement as the State concerned.

295. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

296. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, Ecuador, the Russian Federation and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

297. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Cuba, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.22. The draft resolution was adopted by 22 votes in favour, 5 against, with 20 abstentions.

298. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/12.

Situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

299. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representatives of Denmark and Japan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.29, sponsored by Denmark, on behalf of the European Union, and Japan, and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America. Subsequently, Andorra, Costa Rica and Turkey joined the sponsors.

300. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made general comments in relation to the draft resolution, disassociating itself from the consensus on it.

301. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea made a statement as the State concerned.

302. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

303. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China and the Russian Federation made statements in explanation of vote before the vote, disassociating from the consensus on the draft resolution.

304. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/13).

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

305. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Denmark introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.30, sponsored by Denmark, on behalf of the European Union, and co-sponsored by Andorra, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Serbia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the United States of America. Subsequently, Georgia, Norway and the Republic of Moldova joined the sponsors.

306. At the same meeting, the representative of Denmark orally revised the draft resolution.

307. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Cuba, India and the Philippines made general comments in relation to the draft resolution, in which Cuba and India disassociated from the consensus on it.

308. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Myanmar made a statement as the State concerned.

309. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

310. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, Indonesia, the Russian Federation and Thailand made statements in explanation of vote before the vote, in which China and the Russian Federation disassociated from the consensus on the draft resolution.

311. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/21).

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

312. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Denmark introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.38/Rev.1, sponsored by Denmark, on behalf of the European Union, and co-sponsored by Albania, Andorra, Australia, Bahrain, Botswana, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Djibouti, Egypt, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Maldives, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America. Subsequently, Cape Verde, the Federated States of Micronesia, Panama and Senegal joined the sponsors.

313. At the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and introduced an oral amendment to it.

314. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of Member States of the European Union that are Members of the Council), Cuba, Qatar and Saudi Arabia made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and the proposed oral amendment.

315. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

316. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

317. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Qatar, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendment proposed. The amendment was rejected by 4 votes in favour, 33 against, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

China, Cuba, Ecuador, Russian Federation

Against:

Austria, Belgium, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Guatemala, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, United States of America, Uruguay

Abstaining:

Angola, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Congo, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Thailand, Uganda

318. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of China, Ecuador and the Russian Federation made statements in explanation of vote before the vote on the draft resolution.

319. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the Russian Federation, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by 41 votes in favour, 3 against, with 2 abstentions.

320. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Thailand made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote.

321. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/22.

V. Human rights bodies and mechanisms

A. Complaint procedure

322. At the 28th meeting, on 9 March, the 32nd meeting, on 13 March, the 46th meeting, on 20 March, and the 54th meeting on 23 March 2012, the Human Rights Council held four closed meetings of the complaint procedure.

323. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the President made a statement on the outcome of the meetings, stating that the Human Rights Council had, in closed meetings, examined the situations of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq and Turkmenistan under the complaint procedure established pursuant to Council resolution 5/1. The Council had decided to discontinue consideration of the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Turkmenistan. Furthermore, it had decided to discontinue its consideration of one situation regarding Iraq, and recommended that OHCHR should increase technical cooperation, capacity-building, assistance and advisory services with that country. The Council had also decided to keep one situation of human rights in Iraq under review.

B. Forum on Minority Issues

324. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the independent expert on minority issues, Rita Izsák, presented the recommendations of the Forum on Minority Issues at its fourth session held on 29 and 30 November 2011, on guaranteeing the rights of minority women and girls (A/HRC/19/71).

C. Social Forum

325. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Social Forum, Minelik Alemu Getahun, introduced the report of the Social Forum for 2011 (A/HRC/19/70), held from 3 to 5 October 2011.

D. General debate on agenda item 5

326. At the 36th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 5, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark⁷⁸ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Ecuador, Hungary, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ethiopia, Luxembourg, Morocco, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of);

(c) Observer for an international organization: Council of Europe;

⁷⁸ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: African Association of Education for Development, Center for Environmental and Management Studies, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Centrist Democratic International, Foodfirst Information and Action Network, France Libertés : Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, Human Rights Advocates Inc., Indian Council of South America, International Association for Democracy in Africa, International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Buddhist Relief Organisation, International Committee for the Indians of the Americas, International Service for Human Rights, International Union of Latin Notariat, Japanese Workers' Committee for Human Rights, Liberation, Nord-Sud XXI, Reporters sans Frontières International, United Nations Watch, World Vision International (also on behalf of Save the Children).

327. At the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Ethiopia.

E. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Forum on Minority Issues

328. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Austria introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.11, sponsored by Austria and co-sponsored by Albania, Armenia, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Cyprus, Ethiopia, Guinea, Lebanon, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, San Marino, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine joined the sponsors.

329. At the same meeting, the representative of China introduced draft amendments to the draft resolution as contained in A/HRC/19/L.41 and A/HRC/19/L.42, sponsored by China. The representative of China also introduced oral revisions to A/HRC/19/L.41.

330. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Austria made general comments on the draft amendments, by which A/HRC/19/L.42 was adopted without a vote.

331. At the same meeting, the secretariat of the Human Rights Council made a statement regarding draft amendment A/HRC/19/L.41.

332. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Austria, Belgium (on behalf of Member States of the European Union that are Members of the Council), China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Norway and Switzerland made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as amended by A/HRC/19/L.42, and on draft amendment A/HRC/19/L.41, as orally revised.

333. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Philippines and Uruguay made statements in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to draft amendment A/HRC/19/L.41, as orally revised.

334. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Belgium (on behalf of Member States of the European Union that are Members of the Council), Costa Rica, Norway and Switzerland, a recorded vote was taken on draft amendment A/HRC/19/L.41 as orally revised. The draft amendment, as orally revised, was rejected by 15 votes in favour, 18 against, with 12 abstentions.

335. At the same meeting, the representative of China made general comments in relation to draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.11, as amended by A/HRC/19/L.42, disassociating from consensus on the draft resolution.

336. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, as amended by A/HRC/19/L.42, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/23).

Social Forum

337. At the 54th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.20, sponsored by Cuba and co-sponsored by Algeria, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Nicaragua, Palestine, Panama, Peru, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe. Subsequently, Angola, Bangladesh, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, Haiti, Lebanon, Serbia, South Africa and the Sudan joined the sponsors.

338. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba orally revised the draft resolution.

339. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Belgium (on behalf of Member States of the European Union that are Members of the Council), Costa Rica, Peru, Switzerland, the United States of America and Uruguay made general comments in relation to the draft resolution as orally revised, in which Belgium (on behalf of Member States of the European Union that are Members of the Council) and the United States of America disassociated from consensus on the draft resolution.

340. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

341. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/24).

VI. Universal periodic review

342. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and President's statements PRST/8/1 and PRST/9/2 on modalities and practices for the universal periodic review process, the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the twelfth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, held from 3 to 14 October 2011, as well as of Libya, the review outcome of which could not be adopted at an earlier session.

A. Consideration of universal periodic review outcomes

343. In accordance with paragraph 4.3 of President's statement 8/1, the section below contains a summary of the views expressed on universal periodic review outcomes by the State under review, Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council, as well as general comments made by other relevant stakeholders before the adoption of the outcome by the Council in plenary session.

Tajikistan

344. The review of Tajikistan was held on 3 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Tajikistan in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TJK/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TJK/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TJK/3).

345. At its 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Tajikistan (see section C below).

346. The outcome of the review of Tajikistan comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/3), the views of Tajikistan concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/3/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

347. The delegation stated that Tajikistan had made its final position on the recommendations made in the framework of the universal periodic review after careful analysis and discussions with representatives of Government agencies and of civil society.

348. The delegation reported on a change in Tajikistan's position on the recommendation that it decriminalize defamation and insults, formulated in paragraph 90.38 of the report of the Working Group. Tajikistan had decided to accept the recommendation although it initially declined to support it in the addendum to the report of the Working Group. Tajikistan's commitment in this regard had been reflected in the statement made by the President of Tajikistan in March 2012. Having the above-mentioned in mind, the relevant

paragraph in the addendum to the report of the Working Group should read that Tajikistan had accepted recommendation 90.38.

349. The Government paid special attention to the enhancement of the role of women in society and to equality between men and women. The delegation pointed out some measures that the Government had taken recently in this regard. The process of drafting a law on domestic violence had started with the aim of combating domestic violence and providing victims with assistance. Tajikistan had accepted the recommendation that it ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Government planned to implement recommendations regarding the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders.

350. As a continuation of its measures to reform the criminal code, Tajikistan had accepted the recommendations that it ratify the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Tajikistan had also accepted the recommendations on ensuring the independence of the Council of Justice, holding regular medical examinations of persons deprived of their liberty, and ensuring independent and impartial investigations into all allegations of violation of human rights.

351. Tajikistan had also accepted the recommendation on ensuring the right to challenge the lawfulness of administrative detention and the access of detainees to a lawyer, doctor and their family members from the time that they are taken into custody, and on amending the Criminal Procedural Code to ensure that the identity of officers involved in detaining a person is duly recorded.

352. Tajikistan had accepted the recommendation on bringing the Criminal Code into line with international standards on freedom of assembly and religion, and considered that the recommendation had already been implemented. The delegation explained that, under the Criminal Code, participants in public assemblies were subject to criminal action only if they had personally taken part in violent acts or disorder.

353. The delegation stated that national legislation provided the necessary guarantees for the establishment of independent media, and it referred to several measures taken to ensure the freedom of the media. Tajikistan had accepted the recommendation on freedom of expression and the media, and on transparent procedures for obtaining a broadcasting licence. It had also accepted a recommendation on prohibiting, preventing and sanctioning child labour. The delegation explained that legislation prohibited child labour and that the Government continued its efforts to prevent and prosecute it.

354. With regard to the recommendation on national and international monitoring in penitentiary institutions, the delegation explained that detention conditions were in line with minimum standards and norms in this area and that complaint mechanisms were available for persons in detention. Furthermore, Tajikistan offered the possibility for national and international monitors to visit detention centres in accordance with the arrangements and regulations laid down by national law.

355. After careful consideration, Tajikistan had not accepted several recommendations owing to the financial and economic situation in the country. Tajikistan had not accepted the recommendations on ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and conventions on statelessness owing to the lack of financial and administrative resources necessary for the implementation of obligations under those treaties. In response to the recommendations regarding the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Government had made special efforts to strengthen national human rights institutions, reform the judicial system and improve the Criminal Code. However, Tajikistan was not in a position to establish the national preventative mechanism as required by the Optional Protocol owing to its economic situation; therefore, it could not support the recommendation. The ratification of the International Convention for the

Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance required a comprehensive comparative analysis of legislation in view of the requirements of the Convention; Tajikistan had therefore decided not to accept the recommendation on the ratification of the Convention at the present stage.

356. While Tajikistan had not accepted the recommendation on issuing a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, the Government continued to send invitations to some of them. The Government welcomed the visit of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and that of the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances.

357. The Act on Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations had been adopted in accordance with the requirements of international legal instruments, compared with the previous law, the Act made it easier to register religious associations, to combat illegal proselytizing and to realize the right to religious education and freedom of belief. Furthermore, Tajikistan respected the right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. There was no restriction to religious education of a child, although some limitations, in conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, were permitted in the participation of children in religious organizations. Having this in mind, Tajikistan had not accepted the recommendations regarding legislation ensuring the freedom of children to participate in religious organizations.

358. As the implementation of several recommendations required additional resources, Tajikistan would plan the State budget by allocating the funding necessary for the implementation of its international human rights obligations. With regard to the recommendations that Tajikistan could not yet support, measures would be taken to bring legislation into conformity with international norms. A working group had been established to develop a national plan of action for the implementation of the recommendations made in the framework of the universal periodic review.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

359. Algeria welcomed the constructive participation of Tajikistan in the universal periodic review. While noting the progress made in the area of human rights, Algeria referred to several problems identified in the national report, in particular the widespread poverty. Algeria encouraged Tajikistan to continue its efforts to combat drug trafficking. It noted positively the fact that Tajikistan had supported three recommendations made by Algeria relating to the establishment of a national human rights institute, the completion of the implementation of the programme on combating human trafficking, and intensifying programmes to combat HIV/AIDS. Algeria also hoped that its recommendation that Tajikistan ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities would be possible after the improvement of financial and economic situation in the country. Tajikistan should receive assistance from the international community to improve standards of living, to raise public awareness on human rights and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

360. Morocco commended Tajikistan for having accepted the majority of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review. In particular, it welcomed the fact that the recommendations made by Morocco concerning human rights education and training for State officials and the improvement of prison conditions had been accepted and that its recommendation regarding the rights of the child had already been implemented. Morocco also reiterated its appreciation for Tajikistan's long-term commitment to the protection of the rights of refugees, which was demonstrated by its ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto. Tajikistan's commitment and undertakings in this area was a good practice to be considered by other

countries hosting refugees. Morocco also noted positively Tajikistan's cooperation with treaty bodies and the mechanism of the Human Rights Council and the efforts of the Government to protect the most vulnerable groups of the population.

361. Cuba recognized Tajikistan's efforts aimed at promoting universal access to health services and public education. It also welcomed the progress made in the areas of food security and combating human trafficking. It noted positively Tajikistan's accession to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and two Optional Protocols thereto, and ILO Convention No. 182 on prohibiting the worst forms of child labour. It pointed out the national plan of action to reform the juvenile justice system, the measures taken to protect children from ill-treatment and the establishment of rehabilitation centres for women and children. Cuba also noted Tajikistan's accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women without reservations. Cuba praised Tajikistan for having reduced poverty in recent years. It called on Tajikistan to continue its measures for the protection and promotion of human rights, and wished it success in the implementation of its socioeconomic development programmes.

362. UNICEF welcomed Tajikistan's endorsement of a number of recommendations relating to the prohibition of corporal punishment of children in all settings, the elimination of child labour and the introduction of a separate juvenile justice system. It called on Tajikistan to focus on the rights of the most disadvantaged children, including children with disabilities and girls. UNICEF also welcomed Tajikistan's adoption of the strategy on inclusive education for children with disabilities, and expressed its readiness to provide technical support to refine the strategy further and to implement it as a matter of priority. It also called on Tajikistan to ensure the right of children to live in a family environment by preventing family separation and developing family support and substitute services. Lastly, UNICEF urged Tajikistan to submit its overdue periodic reports for the two optional protocols to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

363. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme appreciated Tajikistan's efforts to harmonize domestic legislation with international legal standards, and supported the measures taken in the area of gender equality. It noted with satisfaction the adoption of the moratorium on the death penalty and advised Tajikistan to take necessary steps to abolish it, in particular by ratifying the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. It remained concerned at the increasing restrictions on the freedom of conscience and belief, civil society organizations and independent media. It urged Tajikistan to take specific steps to meet its obligation to ensure a favourable environment for the freedom of expression. It deplored the allegations of torture and poor detention conditions, and encouraged Tajikistan to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and to request technical assistance for the renovation and construction of prisons. In conclusion, the organization encouraged Tajikistan to combat poverty and to ratify core human rights instruments.

364. Save the Children called on Tajikistan to respect the minimum age of criminal responsibility of 14 years, without exception. Save the Children noted the adoption of the national plan of action on juvenile justice reform and of relevant legislative amendments, and it called for their full compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and international human rights standards. Save the Children deeply regretted the fact that the institutionalization of children with disabilities was still a common practice. It encouraged the Government to respect the principle of the best interests of the child with disabilities, and to ensure that community-based and family-based care services were prioritized. Save the Children called for the prompt ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Save the Children echoed the concern expressed by the

Committee on the Rights of the Child that the number of children in State institutions had increased owing to the cases of institutionalization of children, with the consent of their parents, for economic reasons. It called on Tajikistan to establish comprehensive social protection and child protection systems to ensure an adequate standard of living to families, with the aim of avoiding family separation and children being left behind.

365. Action Canada for Population and Development, jointly with Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit (COC Nederland), commended Tajikistan for paying attention to the issue of gender recognition for transgender persons. They expressed the hope that Tajikistan would simplify the procedure of changing documents and not require surgeries for gender recognition. However, they highlighted the fact that gay and bisexual men continue to be detained and prosecuted despite the decriminalization of same-sex conduct, and that lesbian women continued to be forced into arranged marriages and controlled by families through beating and psychological pressure. They urged Tajikistan to take all necessary legislative measures to impose appropriate criminal penalties for violence, threats of violence, incitement to violence and related harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, in all spheres of life. They also urged Tajikistan to ensure that violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity, including by law enforcement personnel, was vigorously investigated, that those responsible were prosecuted and duly punished, and that victims were provided with appropriate remedies and redress, including compensation.

366. Amnesty International welcomed Tajikistan's support for several important recommendations on torture and ill-treatment, and urged the authorities to implement them without delay. Tajikistan had taken its first step by introducing draft amendments to the Criminal Code to bring the definition of torture into line with article 1 of the Convention against Torture. Tajikistan should now prioritize the implementation of recommendations to eradicate torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and to ensure prompt and credible investigations into all allegations of torture, including deaths in custody. Amnesty International referred to its research, showing that torture was widespread in Tajikistan, particularly in pretrial detention facilities. People suspected of supporting banned Islamic groups were at particular risk. A climate of impunity for such abuses by police and security forces prevailed; it therefore regretted Tajikistan's rejection of the recommendation that it ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. It was concerned that Tajikistan regarded as already implemented a recommendation on the use of statements obtained under torture as evidence in legal proceedings. While the Code of Criminal Procedure required such evidence to be declared inadmissible, Amnesty International was concerned that judges frequently ignored allegations of torture. It called on Tajikistan to adopt legislation preventing statements made by detainees without a lawyer present from having probative value in court, except as evidence against those accused of torture.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

367. Tajikistan would continue to take measures to improve its legislation and to bring it into line with international human rights standards. In this respect, the Government welcomed the cooperation and support of all interested parties.

United Republic of Tanzania

368. The review of the United Republic of Tanzania was held on 3 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the United Republic of Tanzania in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TZA/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TZA/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TZA/3).

369. At its 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the United Republic of Tanzania (see section C below).

370. The outcome of the review of the United Republic of Tanzania comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/4), the views of the United Republic of Tanzania concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/4/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

371. The United Republic of Tanzania thanked all the Member States and observers of the Human Rights Council for their contribution to a meaningful dialogue on its performance with regard to international human rights obligations.

372. During the course of the universal periodic review of the United Republic of Tanzania, 54 delegations had taken the floor, formulating questions and recommendations. It had received a total of 153 recommendations, immediately supported 96 recommendations, while 4 had been noted. Some 53 recommendations had been deferred for further consideration. The Government gave full attention to all recommendations.

373. With regard to the recommendations accepted, the United Republic of Tanzania stated that they corresponded mostly to areas already identified in the course of the preparation of the national report as areas requiring further attention. There had been some significant changes since the presentation of the national report before the Working Group in October 2011.

374. Some delegations had recommended the creation of a special commission to supervise constitutional reforms. In response, the Constitutional Review Act No. 8 of 2011 had provided for the establishment of a constitutional review commission, which would, *inter alia*, be responsible for coordinating and collecting public opinions on the new Constitution. The Act also provided for a procedure for constituting the Constituent Assembly, the holding of the referendum and other related matters. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, the President had extended invitations to political parties, religious institutions, civil society and other interested groups to each submit three names of people to be considered for membership of the constitutional review commission, which was expected to commence its work before end of June 2012.

375. Regarding the recommendation on finalizing the national plan of action on human rights, a national technical committee comprising members of the Government, the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance and civil society, was in place, with the support of UNDP under the One United Nations framework. The draft national human rights plan of action was expected to be finalized by June 2012.

376. The United Republic of Tanzania had rejected four recommendations on homosexuality, as well as on the abolition of the price of brides and polygamy. Same-sex unions were not culturally and legally accepted, as they violated and infringed cultural, religious and moral norms of Tanzanian society. The recommendation on the abolition of

the price of brides and polygamy was another area rejected on the basis of the enjoyment of cultural and religious rights.

377. Since the universal periodic review held in October 2011, the United Republic of Tanzania has considered the substance of each and every one of the deferred recommendations with the active participation of the relevant stakeholders from both within and outside the Government. The views and comments arising from a stakeholder's workshop organized in December 2011 were considered and incorporated into the addendum on views on conclusions and or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies submitted to the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session.

378. The United Republic of Tanzania had accepted a total of 107 recommendations. It agreed in part with the recommendations on considering the ratification of other core international human rights instruments. While the United Republic of Tanzania may not be a party to some treaties, it noted that, in practice, its policies were in most cases, already fully or largely in compliance with their provisions. The United Republic of Tanzania would continue to study the implications of acceding to other major human rights treaties. It had informed the Human Rights Council of its intention to consider accession to the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, among other instruments. Some treaties were at the stage of cabinet approval.

379. With regard to issuing or extending an open invitation for special procedures, the United Republic of Tanzania noted that it had regularly received mandate holders and would continue to work with such mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. Requests for visits would be considered positively on a case-by-case basis. The Government was also working with other mechanisms; for example, a country review mission team of the African Peer Review Mechanism was currently in the country to review good governance issues. Likewise, in September 2011, the United Republic of Tanzania had pledged to join the Open Government Partnership initiative that aims to make Government business more open to its citizens, combat corruption and build greater trust.

380. With regard to the abolition of the death penalty and formalizing the *de facto* moratorium as a step towards its complete abolition, the United Republic of Tanzania categorically stated that this recommendation did not enjoy its support, as already mentioned in its national report and the statement delivered in October 2011. The Government would, in collaboration with other stakeholders, continue to inform the public on the general international trends with regard to the death penalty. On the establishment of a *de jure* moratorium on the death penalty, internal consultations and public opinion should be given the highest consideration. Most of these contentious issues would be deliberated upon in the forthcoming constitutional review process.

381. A number of measures had been taken by the Government in collaboration with civil society to address the issue of gender-based violence. The Constitution prohibited discrimination on the basis of, among other things, sex and gender. The Penal Code and the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act criminalized various forms of gender and sexual-based violence, including rape, sexual assault and harassment, sex work and trafficking. While the recommendation made in this regard enjoyed the State's support in part, the United Republic of Tanzania did not accept any importation of the concept of marital rape embedded therein. Because of diverse opinions and issues, the question of introducing marital rape for married couples required a wider and culturally sensitive debate.

382. The United Republic of Tanzania stated that corporal punishment for persons convicted of certain offences was provided for by law under the Corporal Punishment Act and its regulations, as well as by the Prisons Act. This punishment was not applicable to

females and males over 55 years of age and, as a result of strict procedures and controls, it had not been administered for more than a decade.

383. The United Republic of Tanzania made a distinction between caning and corporal punishment; caning was administered to pupils and students for acts of gross indiscipline. The Education Act prescribed a strict framework for its administration. The caning of miscreant students in schools was viewed as a legitimate form of punishment, a constant reminder for pupils to adhere to education guidelines and regulations.

384. Regarding the recommendation on setting the minimum age of marriage for boys and girls at 18, the State pointed out that the Law of Marriage Act had been the subject of a protracted debate on gender equality, specifically the rights of women and girls; on the one hand, culture, traditions and religion and, on the other, the rights of some sections of the society, especially women and girls, were considered. A Government white paper had been prepared in order to obtain a balanced position on this matter.

385. The Government was also determined to review its laws governing freedom of the press. The bill on cabinet papers for both the media and newspapers concerning mainland Tanzania were in their final stage. With regard to Tanzania Zanzibar, the process for enacting the right to information bill was still at an early stage. The Human Rights Council would be updated on this process in a timely manner.

386. The United Republic of Tanzania informed the Human Rights Council that the recommendation on respect for the right to assembly in the constitutional review process enjoyed its support, and the Constitutional Review Act No. 8 of 2011 contained provisions for the right to assembly and participation in the process.

387. During consideration of its national report at the session of Working Group in October 2011, the United Republic of Tanzania had clarified its position on indigenous peoples, indicating that it was a term that was not applicable to Tanzania, as all Tanzanians of African descent were indigenous to the United Republic of Tanzania. The Government, however, recognized the vulnerability of some marginalized communities, and it had been responsive to their needs and would continue to be so.

388. Bearing in mind the resource and time implications for the submission of a midterm report on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, the United Republic of Tanzania would continue to report regularly to the Human Rights Council and the treaty bodies, as and when necessary, just before its next periodic review in 2016.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

389. Cuba noted that the United Republic of Tanzania had achieved the Millennium Development Goal relating to universal primary education five years before the deadline of 2015. Economic empowerment funds have been created to benefit those marginalized by the conventional banking system, and plans aimed at disadvantaged persons had been implemented to normalize real estate and companies. Plans to raise awareness about water and sanitation, food, environmental health, sexual and reproductive health, and the promotion of public health, were also being implemented at the community level. Positive steps had been taken in the areas of the rights of women and persons with disabilities. Cuba recommended that the report of the Working Group on the United Republic of Tanzania should be adopted.

390. Algeria highlighted the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to the universal periodic review in its support for the majority of the recommendations made. It appreciated the acceptance of Algeria's recommendations on the intensification of its programme to combat poverty, the ratification of the International Convention on the

Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the completion of its draft national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the plan of action on violence against women. The United Republic of Tanzania would undergo the peer review process by the African Union in July 2012. It wished the State success in its efforts, and recommended the adoption of the report of the Working Group.

391. Morocco welcomed the establishment of a national human rights institution in the United Republic of Tanzania, as well as the initiatives to improve the realization of refugees' rights, such as the regularization and naturalization of many refugees. Morocco had also noted the efforts made by the State to strengthen the rights of women, including their participation in public life, and the measures taken in favour of young people and persons with disabilities.

392. South Africa noted the voluntary commitments made by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania that included, *inter alia*, the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. South Africa commended the State's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, as demonstrated by the large number of recommendations that had enjoyed the support of the Government. It congratulated the United Republic of Tanzania on having met the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education before the deadline. South Africa called on the international community to provide the country with the necessary technical assistance and capacity-building requirements.

393. Botswana recognized the acceptance of the recommendation to prepare and implement a national plan of action on human rights as proof of the State's commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights in a more systematic and predictable manner. Botswana understood and fully appreciated the challenges that accompanied the acceptance of universal periodic review recommendations, and expressed the hope that the United Republic of Tanzania would benefit from the support of the international community in meeting its domestic and international obligations.

394. UNICEF welcomed the endorsement by the United Republic of Tanzania of recommendations to tackle violence against children, female genital mutilation and the killing of children with albinism. UNICEF called on the State to (a) prohibit violence against children in all settings, including corporal punishment; (b) improve conditions of detention, ensure separation of detained children from adults, and establish alternatives to pre- and post-detention; and (c) ensure equal access to quality education, including for children with disabilities, to tackle the phenomenon of school dropout and change discriminatory laws and practices, including those excluding pregnant girls from school. It urged the United Republic of Tanzania to fully implement the Law of the Child Act (Mainland), to bring into force the Children Act (Zanzibar), and to implement promptly the under-five birth registration strategy.

395. Angola saluted the progress made by the United Republic of Tanzania in the establishment of a Government of national unity in Zanzibar. It praised its nationality policy for African refugees and the fact that it was the first African country to elaborate and circulate a report on violence against children. It also praised its national policy in favour of disabled persons and the reform with regard to the freedom of the press. It stressed the efforts made to achieve the national objective to eliminate malaria by 2015 following the successful achievement of the Millennium Development Goal relating to universal primary education, five years ahead of the deadline. Angola welcomed the consultative process in the elaboration of the national report and the reform aimed at strengthening the normative institutional framework for human rights. It recommended that the report of the Working Group on the review of the United Republic of Tanzania be adopted.

396. Uganda noted that the United Republic of Tanzania had supported the vast majority of the recommendations made, and it applauded the Government's commitment to the protection of all human rights, especially those concerned with the realization of economic, social and cultural rights. The East African community had been engaged in regional efforts to implement recommendations, and looked forward to working with the country in the implementation of the outcomes agreed upon.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

397. The Tanzania Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance referred to its follow-up and monitoring activities with regard to the implementation of the universal periodic review recommendations accepted by the United Republic of Tanzania. The administration of justice and conditions in detention facilities still did not meet international and national standards. The United Republic of Tanzania still lagged behind in the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, as well as in the fulfilment of economic, social and cultural rights. The killings of persons with albinism had abated; however, the killing of older women and mob violence, domestic violence and child abuse still continued. The settlement of land disputes and property rights required the Government's special attention. The Commission appealed to the State to continue its efforts to reform the system accordingly.

398. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, the Tanzania Legal and Human Rights Centre, the Zanzibar Legal Services Centre and the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Network highlighted two key areas of concern. The United Republic of Tanzania had not yet taken sufficient steps to address gender-based violence, as there were no legal provisions for the protection of victims. Moreover, existing laws did not provide for penalties on spouse battering or other forms of violence. The second area of concern was the use of excessive force and extrajudicial killings by the police and other law enforcement officials. The State had accepted the recommendation on establishing an independent body for investigating complaints about the actions of law enforcement officials, but questions had been raised about the timescale for the establishment of such a mechanism and its transparency to the public.

399. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme welcomed the efforts made by the United Republic of Tanzania regarding the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal on universal primary education, the adoption of the national plan for the prevention and elimination of violence against women, and the election of two persons with albinism to Parliament. It expressed its concern, however, at the increased violence and killing of persons with albinism in many regions. It invited the State to take adequate measures, such as awareness-raising campaigns, to improve the protection of persons with albinism and to take legislative measures to criminalize all forms of violence against women.

400. Save the Children welcomed the efforts of the United Republic of Tanzania to protect children's rights and the acceptance of the universal periodic review recommendations regarding child mortality, child hunger and malnutrition, quality of education and the implementation of the 2009 Child Rights Act. Save the Children believed that enforcement of the minimum age at marriage and protection from violence in the family were crucial for improved protection of women and children. It called on the Government to include these measures in the comprehensive national strategy to end violence against women and children. It also called on the Government to take steps to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings, and towards the eradication of the worst forms of child labour as part of a comprehensive framework for the elimination of all forms of child abuse and exploitation.

401. Franciscans International was pleased that the United Republic of Tanzania had accepted the recommendations relating to the justice system; however, it was concerned that human trafficking might be overlooked owing to the small number of recommendations made thereon. It urged the State to acknowledge the legal existence of indigenous peoples on its territory, and to safeguard their rights through appropriate national legislation, including the recognition of their own customary land tenure system. Franciscans International called on the Government to significantly increase its annual education budget to build schools and to train more teachers. It expressed concern at reports of the corporal punishment of children, both in school and at home.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

402. The United Republic of Tanzania pointed out that recommendations would be translated into Kiswahili and disseminated to the public and within national institutions. It would continue to value both technical and financial support from development partners and the United Nations system.

Libya

403. The review of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya was held on 9 November 2010 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/1 and A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/1/Corr.1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/9/LBY/3).

404. At its 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Libya (see section C below).

405. The outcome of the review of Libya comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/16/15), the views of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/16/15/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

406. The delegation expressed its satisfaction and delight at representing Libya in the adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. The delegation considered the report to be the product of exceptional circumstances. At the time of the review of the ninth session of the Working Group in November 2010, Libya was still under the yolk of injustice imposed by a repressive regime for more than four decades.

407. The delegation emphasized the important role of the universal periodic review for the Human Rights Council, which distinguished its work from that of the Commission. The universal periodic review mechanism did not differentiate and treated all States equally and provided an opportunity for civil society and other stakeholders to comment on the human rights situation in a country.

408. The delegation acknowledged the positive response of the Human Rights Council to the request to postpone the adoption of the report.

409. The delegation reaffirmed Libya's intention to study the recommendations and to provide its response, although they had been addressed to others. A committee composed of all competent ministries was to be formed for this purpose. In keeping with transparency, civil society and the national council for fundamental freedoms and human rights were involved. The President, deputy and some other members of the Council were present at the current session, which demonstrated the will to move forward in defending human rights and to show the world that Libya had placed human rights among its top priorities.

410. The delegation emphasized that the committee had accepted almost all the recommendations. They had already been accomplished by the victory of the February revolution. Most of the recommendations were part of the objectives of the revolution. The revolution itself was a response to the report and the recommendations of the Working Group presented in November 2010. This was further proof of the exceptional nature of the revolution. Almost all recommendations had been accepted, except those in conflict with the Islamic religion and the customs, culture, specificities and principles of the Libyan people.

411. The delegation stressed that accession to the international human rights treaties to which Libya had not yet acceded was considered one of the State's main concerns. While waiting for the election of the National Congress, a committee comprising relevant governmental bodies, civil society, the national council for fundamental freedoms and human rights and all other stakeholders would be formed to review those conventions and to make appropriate recommendations on accession for consideration by future legislative bodies. For example, concerning the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a recommendation to accede to it would be submitted following the election of the legislative bodies. This would take into consideration the growing number of people who had lost limbs during the revolution and were among those with special needs.

412. With regard to women's rights, Libya focused on empowering and engaging women in top positions. The presence of many women in the Transitional National Council and the transitional Government was indicative of this focus, as was the representation of women in the National Congress. Furthermore, many were present at the Council session, and female diplomats had been assigned to join the Mission in Geneva.

413. The delegation reiterated that the Government did not ignore the role of Libyan youth, which had sparked the revolution in peaceful crowds demanding the rights that the Human Rights Council itself called for. Youth had sacrificed their lives so that the Libyan people could live in freedom and enjoy human rights. The new Libyan State has empowered youth to be at the top of the political, economic and social pyramid. The presence of the head of delegation was evidence of the Government's keenness to give effect to the role of youth.

414. The delegation recalled that the revolution was one for human rights. Protesters were not hungry for bread, and were not naked or barefoot, but were demanding rights and human dignity. The new Libyan State therefore encouraged and promoted freedoms in a country deprived of the most basic human rights. In the past, talking about human rights was considered a crime punishable by law. Association with a party was a crime in Libya – described as treason, and punishable by law. The establishment of unions and free associations was also prohibited. Today the door was open for all those rights and freedoms. Today, Libya enjoyed free and independent media censored only by their professional standards and conscience. There were no special or State security courts, which had killed thousands in the past.

415. The delegation emphasized that Libya, through its membership of the Human Rights Council, would cooperate with the international community and the United Nations to promote human rights and respect for human dignity. Reference was made to the cooperation between Libya and the United Nations support mission, led by Ian Martin, which had human rights among its priorities. The mission included experts from OHCHR. Consideration was also being given about calling on their assistance in relation to the recommendations made by the international commission of inquiry on Libya.

416. Libya had issued a law on transitional justice, amnesty and national reconciliation, believing that national reconciliation would not be complete without justice. It renewed its call on neighbouring countries to cooperate in the extradition of alleged perpetrators, taking into account the arrest warrants issued by Interpol.

417. The above-mentioned cooperation would have a significant impact on the success of national reconciliation and social peace. The delegation called on the international community to release frozen assets to be used in the transition process and the reform of State institutions.

418. The delegation clarified its position on the pending recommendations that had been examined by Libya and enjoyed its support. Other recommendations did not enjoy the support of Libya as they were in conflict with the Islamic religion.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

419. Algeria noted that the new authorities in Libya had taken important steps in a short time and under difficult conditions, which demonstrated their commitment to human rights and cooperation with the international community. Algeria welcomed Libya's return to the Human Rights Council and its positive interaction with the universal periodic review mechanism, Libya had accepted most recommendations made by the Working Group, including recommendations that had been previously rejected. It also appreciated the fact that Libya had accepted the recommendations made by Algeria. It expressed its understanding for Libya's position on some recommendations relating to issues that were not of a universal nature. It wished Libya further success, progress and prosperity on its path, while preserving its sovereignty and national unity.

420. Morocco welcomed Libya's positive interaction with the international human rights mechanisms, with due regard for the religious and cultural specificities of the Libyan people. It appreciated in particular Libya's cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism and its acceptance of recommendations that had been rejected by the former regime. This also demonstrated Libya's political will in the area of human rights, which needed to be fully acknowledged by the Human Rights Council. Morocco commended the efforts made by the transitional Government to promote human rights at the legislative and institutional levels, such as the adoption of a law on transitional justice and the creation of a national human rights institution. In the light of these positive indications, Morocco urged the Council to continue to support Libya in this transitional period, on the path of freedom, justice and democracy.

421. Malaysia noted that, despite considerable constraints, Libya had accepted a number of recommendations, including on economic, social and cultural rights. It encouraged the Government to take the measures necessary to implement them effectively. Malaysia was encouraged by Libya's preparedness to continue to engage constructively with relevant international human rights mechanisms, which would contribute to spreading the human rights culture and further improving the human rights situation in the country. Malaysia hoped that the Government would continue its commitment to democratic ideals and

implement fully the recommendations and outcome of the review for the benefit of its citizens.

422. The United States of America, while remaining concerned about ongoing human rights challenges, looked forward to continued cooperation with Libya during this sensitive transition time. It appreciated Libya's support for the recommendations made, especially for investigating and holding to account security forces allegedly responsible for enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment. Action on those issues would demonstrate a positive break with the past. It reiterated that all persons detained without legal basis should be released immediately. It welcomed the attention given to combating discrimination and enhancing the political rights of all Libyans, especially women, and hoped that Libya would make additional efforts to fight gender-based discrimination. It was encouraged by the support for recommendations on guaranteeing non-discriminatory treatment of migrant workers and preventing human trafficking.

423. Kuwait highlighted the unique situation in which Libya found itself today, after the regime change between the universal periodic review in 2010 and the adoption today of the report. Kuwait noted that the people of Libya had been deprived of human rights education for the past 42 years. It welcomed the efforts made by the national transitional Government to promote and protect human rights and to achieve tangible results in this difficult period. Kuwait also appreciated the acceptance by Libya of recommendations that had been rejected by the former regime.

424. Italy welcomed the firm commitment of the transitional Government of Libya to establish the rule of law and uphold all human rights and fundamental freedoms according to the highest international standards, in cooperation with OHCHR. Italy appreciated the willingness of the Libyan authorities to accept universal periodic review recommendations rejected by the previous regime. Italy considered it vital that accountability for human rights violations be ensured and that protection of all components of Libyan society be guaranteed, in a spirit of reconciliation. Italy invited Libya to avail itself of the assistance of the High Commissioner and OHCHR to accelerate the process of change. Italy was ready to make its contribution.

425. Uruguay appreciated the efforts made by Libya to comply with the recommendations made in 2010, and highlighted its acceptance of recommendations that the former regime had rejected, including those relating to the accession to international human rights instruments to which Libya was not yet a party. Uruguay encouraged Libya to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Rome Statute and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, to withdraw reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to accept the individual complaints mechanisms created under different treaties. Uruguay was concerned that the new authorities had not yet committed to the abolition of the death penalty. It urged Libya to adhere to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Uruguay also urged Libya to lift all restrictions on freedom of expression, association and assembly, and to extend an open invitation to the special procedures.

426. Egypt thanked Libya for its readiness to accept recommendations, including those refused by the previous regime, especially where they complied with Libya's priorities. Egypt appreciated the measures being taken to implement accepted recommendations, and the assistance from the international community, particularly in establishing a national human rights institution with a mandate ensuring its independence and effectiveness. Egypt also thanked Libya for having accorded special attention to the rights of women, particularly those who were forcibly displaced, and for its constitutional declaration on equality between men and women. Egypt stood ready to assist Libya.

427. Monaco welcomed Libya's return to the Human Rights Council. It encouraged Libya, in a period of transition after more than 40 years of dictatorship, to aim to achieve conformity with international human rights treaties. For this purpose, Libya should cooperate with the special procedures and the commission of inquiry on Libya in order to establish the truth of past events, and to promote and protect human rights. By complying with its international obligations, Libya would reinforce the positive trend that it had already initiated. Monaco appreciated the efforts already made towards achieving democracy.

428. Jordan thanked Libya for its response to the universal periodic review recommendations, which reflected the latest developments in Libya in the field of human rights. Jordan particularly noted Libya's considerable efforts to develop the institutional and the legislative framework for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It thanked Libya for its cooperation and acceptance of the majority of recommendations, including those not accepted by the previous regime. Jordan invited Libya to further the advancement of the promotion and protection of human rights.

429. Tunisia welcomed Libya's acceptance of most recommendations, including ones that had been rejected by the previous regime. It also noted that the establishment of a national council for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the involvement of civil society in the universal periodic review follow-up process demonstrated Libya's commitment to moving forward on the path of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The constitutional declaration adopted on 3 August 2011 emphasized the necessity to adhere to international and regional human rights instruments. Tunisia also noted that Libya intended to extend an open invitation to the special procedures. Tunisia appealed to the international community to support Libya in its efforts.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

430. OCAPROCE International commended the efforts made by the new authorities. It however deplored the fact that women, who had been at the forefront of action to overthrow the dictatorship, had not gained their place in the new Government and remained subjected to polygamy. While acknowledging the efforts made in education and health care, as well as in the area of women's and children's rights, it recommended that Libya should redouble its efforts to strengthen the autonomy of women, including with regard to their social, economic and cultural rights, and to respect their related obligations set out in the treaties to which Libya had acceded, as well as the recommendations made by the Human Rights Council and other United Nations entities.

431. United Nations Watch reiterated its concern about the 2010 report of the Working Group on Libya, recalling that a number of States had praised the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its efforts and achievements in the human rights area. United Nations Watch recalled that it had pleaded for Libya not to be elected on the Human Rights Council, and that no single country had spoken in opposition. It believed that the review in 2010 had not lived up to the standards that people expected and therefore ought to be repeated.

432. The Indian Council of South America noted the complex situation facing Libya, and that the process of rebuilding and reforming political structures would take time, patience and effort. It spoke of the necessity of balanced reconciliation and the rebuilding of political alliances and social structures, their right to development and the formation of a Government representative of the people, and not the desires of those who would like to exploit Libya's situation. Only Libyans could sort this out. It spoke of the support the Human Rights Council, other peoples and civil society could offer in this difficult situation. It recommended that all tribal groups should be given due consideration in a Government structure that would allow for their participation in developing a Government that reflected the will of the people, including by providing a form of representation of tribal peoples.

433. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme suggested that the Libyan authorities accept all universal periodic review recommendations in order to put an end to four decades of autocratic governance and move towards a genuine process of democratic change, which was essential for national reconciliation and the consolidation of peace and security. Libya had to confront the security challenge. The organization remained alarmed at the situation of African migrant workers, who continued to endure ill-treatment, persecution and virulent racism. Measures had to be taken to put an end to such practices. It urged the authorities to cooperate with the International Criminal Court to try the supporters of the former Government who were in detention, as well as the rebel members of the National Transitional Council who had allegedly committed crimes and serious and massive human rights violations. The international community had to continue to assist Libya in completing its transition, which remained fragile.

434. The World Organization against Torture and Human Rights Solidarity, in a joint statement, welcomed Libya's commitment to the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other international instruments. They welcomed the positive developments in the freedom of assembly and the press, and the abolition of special tribunals and extrajudicial courts. They regretted the State's failure to address systematic acts of torture and that the Government had not yet investigated the massacre at the Abu Saleem prison. They expressed their deep concern at continued and rising tensions, resulting in displacement, including in Tawegha. They were gravely concerned at the continued perpetration of extrajudicial killings, torture and arbitrary detentions, some of which amounted to war crimes. It was vital that acts that were previously sanctioned by the State be addressed by the new regime, and that it take all measures to implement the recommendations of the commission of inquiry and continue its commitments in addressing all violations, including those committed by non-State actors.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

435. The delegation of Libya extended its appreciation to all delegations who had made statements on the adoption of the report. With regard to those who had not been able, due to time limitations, to make their presentations, Libya would study all comments with interest, and assured the Human Rights Council that it would continue to cooperate with the universal periodic review mechanism.

Swaziland

436. The review of Swaziland was held on 4 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Swaziland in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SWZ/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SWZ/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SWZ/3).

437. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Swaziland (see section C below).

438. The outcome of the review of Swaziland comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/6), the views of Swaziland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not

sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/6/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

439. Swaziland provided an update of activities and progress made since its review by the Working Group, as well as its responses to recommendations on which it had not taken a position, and additional information to questions raised.

440. Swaziland stated that, in February 2012, a training workshop had been conducted on the treaty body reporting mechanism, specifically on the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. During the training, officers had obtained information and developed skills in relation to the role and function of the treaty monitoring bodies, on how to prepare effective reports, as well as understanding the reporting process and how to enhance opportunities for civil society and the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration to engage with those bodies. Swaziland extended its sincere gratitude to OHCHR, which had sent a team of experts to the country to train officers.

441. The recommendations made by Member States during its review had been examined by the National Steering Committee on the Universal Periodic Review. Responses had been drafted and approved after consultation with all relevant stakeholders. The Government of Swaziland had made the National Steering Committee a permanent body that would be responsible for preparing State reports for the treaty bodies.

442. Swaziland underlined the fact that some 90 per cent of all recommendations made during its review had received a favourable response from the Government, and that its statement would focus mostly on those that it had promised to consider but that had not received its support.

443. With regard to the accession to the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, capital punishment was not mandatory and the death penalty had last been carried out in 1983. In effect, though a retentionist State in law, Swaziland was abolitionist in practice. Swaziland was not yet ready to accede to the Optional Protocol, at least for the time being. In this regard, it considered the current practice of not implementing capital punishment to be adequate.

444. On the recommendation on torture and extrajudicial killings, Swaziland highlighted the fact that all deaths were investigated by law enforcement officers. Where there was sufficient evidence, criminal proceedings were instituted. It confirmed that torture was unlawful, hence the acceptance of the recommendation on acceding to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

445. With regard to the recommendations on considering allowing the registration and operation of political parties, including greater political freedoms through free, fair, transparent democratic elections; on removing all legislative and practical restrictions impeding the free exercise of civil and political rights, in particular those related to freedom of association and expression, with a view to allow the creation of political parties and respect for trade unions; on enacting legislative measures to facilitate the existence of political parties; and on taking steps to further democratization efforts, including enacting laws that facilitate the registration of political parties, Swaziland recalled the intervention made by its delegation during the review, in which it clarified that political parties were not banned. Section 25, read together with section 32 of the Constitution, protected the right to freedom of association, including the rights of trade unions. By virtue of section 79 of the

Constitution, however, election to public office was by individual merit, and therefore political parties could not field candidates in national elections. The Constitution was a product of wide consultations and hence reflected the views of the majority of Swazis. For these reasons, Swaziland was not yet ready to accept the recommendations relating to political parties to contest elections.

446. With regard to the recommendations on issuing a standing invitation to special procedures and working groups of the United Nations human rights system, issuing a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and enhancing its cooperation with all human rights bodies, considering positively the request for a visit by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and eventually extending a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Council, Swaziland was of the view that its human rights institutions and mechanisms were still in their infancy and were not yet ready for review. Swaziland preferred the strengthening of local institutions and structures.

447. Regarding the recommendations on the implementation of measures to prevent violence against the LGBT community, through training and advocacy campaigns, on bringing legislation into line with international human rights obligations by repealing provisions that might be used to criminalize same-sex activity between consenting adults, and on taking all necessary measures to ensure enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, Swaziland did not accept the decriminalization of same-sex activity. It confirmed, however, that it did not prosecute consensual same-sex relations between consenting adults. Furthermore, the Government was taking steps to progressively realize the highest attainable standard of health without discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

448. Lastly, Swaziland reported on the Government's consultations with relevant stakeholders in order to map out a way forward in the implementation of all recommendations that enjoyed the State's support.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

449. Cuba recognized the efforts of the Government in the area of human rights. In recent years, Swaziland had faced several economic challenges, leading to higher poverty levels. Cuba welcomed the fact that the Government had the eradication of poverty as its main priority. It also highlighted the improvements made in the areas of health and education. Cuba commended the fact that Swaziland had accepted most of the recommendations, including those made by Cuba.

450. Algeria commended Swaziland for accepting a large number of recommendations, including the three submitted by the delegation of Algeria relating to training programmes for the personnel responsible for law enforcement and the implementation of the right to education for all. Algeria encouraged Swaziland to continue, with the assistance of the international community, to implement its plans and programmes aiming at enhancing human rights, particularly in the fields of the right to food, access to education, health and drinking water, as well as in the protection of vulnerable populations.

451. Morocco commended Swaziland for its national report, which was one of the most balanced universal periodic review reports, given that the section on constraints demonstrated the real challenges that the country faced. With regard to the recommendations, Morocco congratulated Swaziland on having accepted 90 per cent of them. Morocco also welcomed the fact that the recommendations accepted by Swaziland included two recommendations made by Morocco, inviting it to assess, in terms of the fight

against HIV/AIDS and malaria, its assistance needs, and to request such assistance, in particular from WHO, and to consider establishing an integrated human development programme.

452. South Africa commended Swaziland for accepting more than 90 per cent of the recommendations made during its review. It noted the progress made in education, especially in the provision of free primary education. It welcomed the work undertaken to combat the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which had had a negative impact on the socioeconomic development of the country. The Government had identified clearly the challenges that impeded the effective promotion and protection of human rights in the country; South Africa therefore called on the international community to support these efforts.

453. Chad congratulated the delegation and thanked it for its clear statement. It was particularly touched that Swaziland had accepted the recommendation it had made during the session of the Working Group in October 2011, namely, that Swaziland request the international community to provide technical and financial assistance to meet its human rights needs.

454. Botswana commended Swaziland for its bold measures in the area of human rights, such as the establishment of an independent national commission on human rights. It commended the Government for having accepted most of the recommendations received, including on strengthening existing institutions to protect democracy. Botswana lauded the commitment made by the Government to broad consultations with stakeholders for the follow-up to these voluntary obligations. It acknowledged the explanation made by the delegation regarding the recommendations Swaziland had not accepted and the fact that this did not lessen the State's human rights obligations.

455. Angola welcomed the establishment of an independent human rights commission to investigate complaints of human rights violations and complaints concerning human rights brought against private and public bodies. Angola noted Swaziland's achievements in education, health, food security and the promotion of women's rights. Angola welcomed the Government's efforts to ensure access to free primary education and the right of access to free health services, food security, the national child policy and the national policy for gender equality; all this reflected the considerable progress made in increasing the number of women employed in the public sector despite the many economic problems that the country faced because of its small size and economic vulnerability to external shocks. Angola also welcomed the measures taken by Swaziland to deal with the problems noted in its national report, including the plans and programmes of action emphasizing such constitutional rights as the rights to life and to education, and the efforts to protect vulnerable groups and combat poverty and HIV/AIDS. Angola appealed to the international community to provide Swaziland with sustained support.

456. Kenya welcomed the concrete initiatives the Government had taken to promote human rights in many areas. It acknowledged the commitment to food security, poverty reduction and accessibility to health and education, among others. It noted that the eventual fulfilment of these commitments would not only be an achievement in the promotion of human rights but also the realization of the Millennium Development Goals.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

457. The International Commission of Jurists referred to Swaziland's judicial crisis, which had exposed a serious risk to the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law. It recalled that, in June 2011, the Chief Justice had issued a practice directive banning litigants from suing the King, thereby restricting access to justice for the Swazi people. Furthermore, in August 2011, a High Court judge well known for applying international

human rights law and rule of law principles was suspended and, thereafter, dismissed. These events went against Swaziland's undertakings under the universal periodic review.

458. Amnesty International referred to the accepted recommendations on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and added that torture and the ill-treatment of detainees were persistent, with perpetrators not being held accountable. It also cited the accepted recommendations on measures to guarantee the independence of the judiciary, stating that such measures were urgently needed. Amnesty International also referred to the accepted recommendations requesting Swaziland to bring its legislation into line with its international obligations with regard to the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. This intent had been undermined by Swaziland's rejection of the recommendations on removing restrictions to the exercise of civil and political rights.

459. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme acknowledged the new Constitution promulgated in 2005 and the measures taken in favour of a human rights legal framework. It noted, however, the scarcity of democratic space and the proscription of a multiparty system. It welcomed the establishment of free primary education and encouraged the Government to enlarge this entitlement. It also recognized the Government's efforts in the area of health. It noted the need to enhance the independence of the activities of civil society organizations. It called for the adoption of measures to eliminate violence against women and albinos. Lastly, it requested a debate to ensure the complete abolition of the death penalty.

460. In the view of the World Student Christian Federation, there was no political will in Swaziland to implement human rights. It mentioned, as examples, the absence of legislation to regulate the operation of political parties, the proscription of certain political entities under the Suppression of Terrorism Act and the prevention and disruption of political activities. It also referred to restrictions on freedom of expression through legislation and State intimidation. With regard to women's rights, discrimination and violations continued to be widespread in law and in practice, with impunity. It urged Swaziland to domesticate international human rights instruments to which it was a party, and to submit all outstanding State party reports.

461. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland and Action Canada for Population and Development, in a joint statement, referred to the sustained sexual and reproductive rights violations of the people of Swaziland by its Government. Swaziland had failed to address gender-based violence effectively. Violence against women was extremely common. Swaziland had no form of legal protection on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. It requested the Government to specify the measures it would take to address the issue of the human rights of women and LGBTI persons in Swaziland, in keeping with its international obligations.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

462. Swaziland expressed its appreciation to the many delegations that had encouraged it on the noble cause of continuously improving its human rights situation. The universal periodic review mechanism was a journey rather than a destination, and therefore some issues would be covered by future reviews after broad consultations with all relevant stakeholders. Swaziland remained committed to the fulfilment of its human rights obligations and would spare no effort to pursue compliance in this regard.

Trinidad and Tobago

463. The review of Trinidad and Tobago was held on 5 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Trinidad and Tobago, in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TTO/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR, in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TTO/2 and Corr.1);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR, in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TTO/3).

At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Trinidad and Tobago (see section C below).

464. The outcome of the review of Trinidad and Tobago comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/7), the views of Trinidad and Tobago concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/7/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

465. Trinidad and Tobago stated that the universal periodic review process had been a beneficial one and expressed its appreciation to the troika (Peru, the Philippines and the United States of America), delegations that made recommendations, representatives of civil society, who made valuable contributions, OHCHR and the Commonwealth secretariat.

466. Trinidad and Tobago expressed its commitment to the protection of human rights of its people, a cornerstone of its plans for development. At the twelfth session of the Working Group, it had received 118 recommendations; 15 had been accepted outright, while 33 were at various stages of implementation. Some 18 recommendations did not comply with its views or policies.

467. Of the remaining 52 recommendations, Trinidad and Tobago provided a detailed written response to each issue, indicating the Government's position. These recommendations were thematic in nature and centred on specific human rights issues that most developing States were currently addressing.

468. The first and most prominent theme identified was the signing, ratification or implementation of international human rights treaties that did not currently enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago. This was a serious issue that continued to engage the Government's attention. Its position on the retention of capital punishment had been clearly stated and, as such, it would be inherently counterproductive to sign or ratify any instruments in conflict with this position. This in no way implied that the Government took such issues as torture or other cruel or degrading treatment lightly.

469. Trinidad and Tobago pointed out that, during its universal periodic review, its view on capital punishment had been expressed. While recognizing the international movement towards abolition, Trinidad and Tobago had to take into consideration the outcome of widespread public consultations and debate and moreover, have the full support of Parliament in any reform on death penalty laws. It was continuously engaging the public on this issue, with the intention of reviewing its laws on capital punishment. Its approach would be to preserve the death penalty in the most humane way possible and to ensure that all safeguards were in place, be it in a domestic or an international context. Such a process would also involve the amendment of existing national legislation. However, any definitive outcome on the issue of capital punishment would be guided by public consultations and the consensus of Parliament.

470. In Trinidad and Tobago, corporal punishment was currently maintained as part of the Penal Code, but was strictly forbidden in schools by a national code of conduct. While it was a long accepted practice used to discipline children, like many other aspects of Trinidad and Tobago's societal development this too was subject to change. In an effort to foster new thinking, it pointed out that the current administration had created the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, headed by a female senator who was a former social rights activist.

471. Trinidad and Tobago identified education as a key factor in the necessary paradigm shift in relation to corporal punishment. As highlighted in its universal periodic review report, the current administration had committed a great deal of resources to improving the accessibility of educational opportunities to the population, clearly demonstrated in the number of early childhood education centres being built, the school food initiative, the transportation facilities offered to students and the provision of school uniforms, as well as a book rental programme and its laptop initiative.

472. There had also been a legislative move to increase the mandatory age of school attendance from 12 to 16 years of age in the children's bill currently being debated in Parliament. It observed that, on 9 March 2012, the Minister for Gender, Youth and Child Development had moved the second reading of the bill, which adjourned at 11.35 p.m. This underscored the Government's commitment to the rights of children.

473. Trinidad and Tobago recognized that the thinking behind capital punishment and corporal punishment could not change overnight with the passing of a new law. It asked international partners to recognize that dialogue on these issues was ongoing and was the most powerful mechanism to change attitudes in the country.

474. Trinidad and Tobago had also received recommendations relating to the strengthening of national organizations to monitor the use of force by protective services, and these it had agreed to examine. As stated in its national report, the Police Complaints Authority was an independent body, operating free of political interference and headed by a former High Court judge. It was the main agency mandated to investigate and prosecute any instances of excessive use of force or corruption in relation to protective services.

475. Trinidad and Tobago had implemented other national security initiatives designed to address the issues concerning infractions of the law by protective services. The "Policing for the People" programme had been introduced to offer training with a view to improving modern-day policing. In November 2011, Trinidad and Tobago had also hosted the Third Regional Meeting of Ministers responsible for Public Security in the Americas. One of the key outcomes of the meeting had been technical capacity-building in the area of human rights and policing.

476. Trinidad and Tobago expressed its high regard for the work of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and for invitations to mandate holders in order to benefit from their technical expertise. This matter had engaged the active consideration of the current administration.

477. Trinidad and Tobago had also undertaken to examine very crucial issues concerning the discrimination of persons based on sexual orientation and/or HIV/AIDS status. Discrimination itself was not taken lightly in Trinidad and Tobago, and sexual orientation was a current and developing issue in the country. The attitudes of the people needed to change in order to address these issues adequately.

478. Trinidad and Tobago's domestic legislation dealing with discrimination was being amended to include a person's HIV/AIDS status as one of the recognized categories under which a person was protected from discrimination. This legislative recognition was not only necessary but also a first in the region. This "maverick" attitude towards the protection of

human rights of all would propel national debate and eventual change in Trinidad and Tobago with regard to such issues as sexual orientation.

479. Trinidad and Tobago was extremely proud of the progress made in relation to the protection and promotion of human rights for all, with emphasis on vulnerable groups. It recognized that, like many other developing States, there were many challenges ahead, and it was ready and willing to face them with the necessary enthusiasm. The universal periodic review process had served as a vital tool in the development of the jurisprudence of human rights protection; it was grateful for the kind support and encouragement received from the international community.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

480. Cuba welcomed the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago and thanked it for the information provided. It noted that, during the review, Trinidad and Tobago's efforts in the field of human rights had been evident, as well as its challenges and progress in health and education. It highlighted the fact that Trinidad and Tobago had achieved universal primary and secondary education, the second Millennium Development Goal, and target 3 of the third Millennium Development Goal, on eliminating sex disparities in education. On health, it welcomed the efforts to finance medication, as well as free oncological and antiretroviral treatment. Cuba also noted the progress made in female empowerment. It thanked Trinidad and Tobago for having accepted many recommendations, including those made by Cuba.

481. Algeria commended Trinidad and Tobago for the clarifications provided on recent developments and the clarity of replies provided. Trinidad and Tobago had received 118 recommendations, a large number for a developing country with limited resources. Algeria expressed appreciation for the fact that two of the recommendations it had made had received the support of Trinidad and Tobago and were currently being implemented. Regarding its third recommendation, on the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with international standards, it welcomed the fact the ombudsman was considering the implementation of the Paris Principles. Algeria encouraged Trinidad and Tobago to continue its efforts to strengthen social and development efforts.

482. Morocco thanked Trinidad and Tobago for the openness with which it had engaged in the universal periodic review process, as seen in the frank and constructive dialogue that had been held with the Working Group. It noted with satisfaction that an important number of the recommendations had been accepted by the State. Morocco was grateful to Trinidad and Tobago for its acceptance of many recommendations, including those made by Morocco. It reiterated its support for Trinidad and Tobago's efforts in favour of development.

483. The United States of America congratulated Trinidad and Tobago on the adoption of its report, as well as on its outstanding presentation and the detailed quality of its addendum. It seemed clear from the addendum that recommendations 1 to 23 did not enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago. It asked whether any of the recommendations addressed in the addendum enjoyed the support of Trinidad and Tobago, or whether these should, for the record, be noted.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

484. Amnesty International welcomed Trinidad and Tobago's support for the recommendations on combating violence against women and girls. It encouraged the Government to finalize the draft policy on gender and development, and to enact the human trafficking bill of 2011. It regretted the fact that Trinidad and Tobago had rejected recommendations regarding the death penalty, and urged it to establish a moratorium on

executions, to commute all death sentences to prison sentences and to abolish the death penalty. While welcoming the support for recommendations on the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBT persons, it noted the existence of legislation criminalizing consensual same-sex relationships, and urged Trinidad and Tobago to repeal it.

485. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme took note of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to promote human rights, and stated that the country should pursue its social economic programmes in order to attain the Millennium Development Goals. It expressed its concern that the death penalty still existed in the country, and urged Trinidad and Tobago to, in particular, abolish its mandatory application in certain cases. It encouraged the Government to increase the number of women in decision-making positions. Noting that progress could be achieved in the elimination of violence against women, the organization recommended the establishment of a programme for the rehabilitation of victims.

486. Action Canada for Population and Development and Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualit – COC Nederland congratulated the Government on having distinguished itself among its Caribbean peers in embracing issues of sexual rights and sexual orientation during its universal periodic review. They noted the recent initiatives, such as the steps taken to address the marriage of minors and the Government's explicit recognition that human rights of all citizens included the LGBT community. They appealed to Trinidad and Tobago to: commence forthwith its nationwide human rights awareness-raising campaign, announced in October 2011, and to move swiftly to establish a functioning human rights institution. They also asked the Government to amend the Equal Opportunity Act of 2000 to include protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

487. Trinidad and Tobago stated that all pending 52 recommendations had been noted.

488. Trinidad and Tobago reiterated its appreciation for the active and constructive exchange with its fellow States Members of the United Nations and non-governmental organizations throughout the universal periodic review process, including the interventions by Cuba, Algeria, Morocco and the United States of America, as well as its continuing dialogue with non-governmental organizations during the consideration of its report.

489. In particular, Trinidad and Tobago thanked Action Canada for Population and Development and COC Nederland for their joint statement on behalf of the Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation and the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago. It assured them that their request regarding the Equal Opportunity Act of 2000 would be conveyed to the Government, which prided itself on dialogue and transparency in the amendment of all legislation.

490. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago had been elected in 2010 to implement change, but stated that change could only be implemented through consultation with the people. It remained committed to its continued engagement with all stakeholders to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights of each citizen of Trinidad and Tobago.

Thailand

491. The review of Thailand was held on 5 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Thailand in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/THA/1 and A/HRC/WG.6/12/THA/1/Corr.1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/THA/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/THA/3).

492. At its 38th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Thailand (see section C below).

493. The outcome of the review of Thailand comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/8), the views of Thailand concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/8/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

494. The delegation of Thailand stated that, during its review, 172 recommendations were received, 100 of which were immediately accepted and none rejected.

495. Thailand had subsequently organized consultations to consider the pending recommendations. While sharing the concerns expressed on some issues, it believed that time should be allowed to work on those issues within the national context.

496. Thailand was able to accept wholly or in part 34 of the 72 recommendations made, bringing the total to 134 recommendations, with implementation of each accepted recommendation being of the utmost importance.

497. In February, the Cabinet of Thailand had endorsed a decision to amend the mandate of the national universal periodic review committee to include monitoring and follow-up on review recommendations. All relevant agencies had been tasked with the preparation of plans of action to implement the recommendations and voluntary pledges.

498. Thailand placed great importance on the participation of all stakeholders in the universal periodic review process, and various sectors had shown interest in it. Senior Government officials had met with parliamentary committees to discuss the recommendations. The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand had organized briefings for its subcommittees and the general public. Although difficult questions had been raised, the interaction with all stakeholders had helped to generate awareness about human rights at the national level.

499. Thailand believed that the implementation of the recommendations required the widest participation of all stakeholders. A nationwide consultation process had been embarked upon in March 2012. Further consultations would be carried out in all regions of Thailand.

500. Thailand had begun to implement some of the recommendations and voluntary pledges. In January 2012, Thailand signed the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and was reviewing its legislation. It had begun to consider the possibility of becoming a party to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and was determined to complete this process as soon as possible.

501. The decision had been made to withdraw Thailand's reservation to article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its interpretative declarations on articles 6 and 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Thailand was also considering withdrawing its interpretative declaration on article 18 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

502. As part of its pledges on a standing invitation to special procedures, Thailand was initially inviting three mandate holders to visit the country: the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the Special Rapporteur on torture and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.

503. Regarding recommendations on vulnerable groups, the Senate had approved a draft nationality bill, which would provide a channel for additional groups with status problems to obtain Thai nationality.

504. In February 2012, the Government of Thailand had issued an announcement describing the work that foreign victims of human trafficking could take up in Thailand pending their return. It hoped that this would empower the victims, enhance their independence and better prepare them for eventual return.

505. Various countries had recommended that Thailand should pursue efforts in national reconciliation. Thailand was moving in that direction. The Cabinet had approved a compensation package for those affected by past political violence. Investigations and legal proceedings were ongoing to bring perpetrators to account and to provide justice for all.

506. A compensation package for those affected by violence in the southern border provinces had been approved and was awaiting the Cabinet's approval. Thailand recognized that providing such remedies must be coupled with efforts to address the root causes of the problem.

507. Thailand admitted that challenges still existed in various areas, and that they needed to be tackled effectively.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

508. Cuba noted positively that Thailand had accepted Cuba's recommendations on implementing socioeconomic development plans, reducing poverty and prioritizing access to health care and education. Cuba acknowledged Thailand's progress in reducing poverty and the realization of the first Millennium Development Goal. It also noted the progress made in increasing literacy and ensuring free medical coverage, as well as the priority attention paid to the treatment of persons with HIV/AIDS. Cuba expressed its confidence that Thailand would continue its progress in ensuring the socioeconomic rights of all.

509. Viet Nam commended Thailand for its efforts to implement the recommendations accepted and for examining and accepting additional recommendations after the review. It particularly appreciated Thailand's acceptance of its recommendations, namely, to continue reconciliation among different sectors of society on the basis of principles of democracy, rule of law and tolerance; and to enhance the implementation of laws, policies and mechanisms related to human rights. Viet Nam encouraged Thailand to continue to do so in close cooperation with relevant United Nations mechanisms and all Member States.

510. China appreciated Thailand's accession to the main international human rights treaties and its second national human rights plan of action for the period 2009–2013. China welcomed its efforts to promote economic and social development, and the attention given to health care and education, as well as the measures taken to protect the rights of children, women, the elderly and migrant workers, and to combat human trafficking. China noted that some challenges remained in the human rights area, but was confident that the joint

efforts by the Government and the people of Thailand would lead to further progress in social and economic development, as well as in the realization of human rights.

511. Algeria acknowledged Thailand's acceptance of the majority of the recommendations made during the universal periodic review. It also noted with satisfaction that Thailand had accepted two of its recommendations relating to the protection of women and addressing violence against them, and to ensure adequate living standards for all. Algeria would have wished to see its recommendation on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families accepted by Thailand. Noting Thailand's adherence to democratic values, Algeria encouraged it to move forward on the path of national reconciliation.

512. Indonesia noted Thailand's consistent and genuine commitment to human rights at the national, international and regional levels, which was reflected in its acceptance of many recommendations and of their implementation. It commended Thailand for its efforts to address equality and social justice, which would enable it to ensure continuous stability in the country. Indonesia, as a country of origin of migrants, appreciated the acceptance of its recommendations relating to the strengthening of law enforcement to protect migrant workers, to guarantee minimum wage and work safety, and to ensure equal access to health. Indonesia welcomed the efforts of Thailand to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility and the separation of juveniles from adults in detention.

513. Myanmar recognized Thailand's constructive approach to the universal periodic review process, noting that most of the recommendations made, including one by Myanmar, had been accepted. Myanmar was confident that Thailand would continue to strengthen its legal and administrative measures for the protection and promotion of all human rights, including the rights of migrant workers and their families.

514. Malaysia noted with appreciation Thailand's constructive engagement in the universal periodic review process. It noted that Thailand had already started to implement a number of the recommendations accepted, but needed time to make further improvements in promoting and protecting human rights on the ground.

515. The Lao People's Democratic Republic was pleased to note that Thailand had accepted many recommendations made during the session of the Working Group, and was taking steps for their implementation. It also noted the considerable progress and efforts made by the Government in improving mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights, providing social security for all groups, and moving forward in the reconciliation process on the basis of democratic principles, justice and the rule of law. It noted with appreciation that, as a party to most international human rights instruments, Thailand had made efforts to withdraw its reservations. It appreciated Thailand's active cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations.

516. Brunei Darussalam noted with appreciation Thailand's cooperation with the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations and its constructive approach to the recommendations made during the universal periodic review. It welcomed Thailand's continuous efforts to protect the rights of its people, particularly those of vulnerable groups.

517. Cambodia noted the commitment demonstrated by Thailand by accepting most recommendations. It took note with appreciation of the efforts and achievements made in the area of human rights, particularly over the past seven months, since the new Government took office, noticeably in the field of economic and social development. Cambodia also appreciated the advancement of the democratic process and the attainment of sustained political stability, as well as the progress seen in providing universal health care and free and equal educational opportunities for all, in addition to the attention given

to the rights of the elderly and disabled. Cambodia welcomed Thailand's decision to extend cooperation to the special procedures.

518. Singapore welcomed the constructive approach demonstrated by Thailand throughout the universal periodic review process and its acceptance of a large number of recommendations, including two made by Singapore. It expressed its readiness to continue to cooperate with Thailand in strengthening the promotion of human rights in the region, including through the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

519. The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand welcomed the Government's acceptance of many recommendations and hoped to see the Government implement them with renewed commitment and vigour. It emphasized that the Government should strengthen the rule of law as a necessary framework for human rights protection, especially in the southern border provinces, where a large number of people were affected by violent incidents. Special protection should be provided to vulnerable groups. Regarding the 38 recommendations not accepted by Thailand, the Commission proposed that there be a more positive response from the Government on recommendations relating to the death penalty, freedom of expression, the rights of refugees and asylum seekers and the ratification of the Rome Statute. It noted that abolishing the death penalty was a controversial but desirable step, and that the Government should at least limit its use to the most serious crimes.

520. The Association for the Prevention of Torture urged Thailand to ensure that the amendments to its laws were fully in line with the Convention against Torture, not only in criminalizing torture but also in taking measures to prevent and investigate torture and other ill-treatment, and to provide redress to victims. It welcomed Thailand's commitment to studying the possibility of ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and hoped that Thailand would engage in a process of open and public consultation on its ratification and implementation. The Association commended Thailand for issuing a standing invitation and on its stated intentions to send an invitation to the Special Rapporteur on torture and to become a party to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.

521. Human Rights Watch regretted the fact that Thailand had rejected all recommendations calling for the review of the *lèse majesté* law to safeguard freedom of expression. It appreciated the fact that Thailand had accepted recommendations to investigate killings by security forces, recalling that at least 90 people had died during the violent confrontations from March to May 2010. According to Human Rights Watch, some actions by the Government appeared one sided, for instance ignoring the violence committed by the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD). Regarding the conflict in the southern border provinces, it noted that the Government had accepted recommendations to address impunity. Progress needed to be made with regard to enforced disappearances and torture. It referred to the failure to conduct an inquiry on the 2003 "war on drugs", and was concerned about targets set to rehabilitate 400,000 drug users in 2012. Procedures concerning refugees and asylum seekers and the protection of migrants needed to be improved.

522. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development regretted the fact that, despite the Government's pledges to reform the mandate of the truth and reconciliation commission of Thailand, truth-seeking had been entirely overlooked and the process of prosecuting alleged perpetrators significantly delayed. The Forum expressed its concern that cases of *lèse majesté* continued to proliferate, with undue restrictions on the right to bail. While welcoming the issued standing invitation, the Forum pointed to the urgent need for a visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression to assist the Government. It expressed concern about the prolonged use of special security laws in the

southern border provinces, which contributed to the culture of impunity. It called for the presentation of a precise plan of action to lift such laws and to repeal section 17 of the Emergency Decree.

523. The Asian Legal Resource Centre welcomed the Government's recent signing of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, but noted that this could be seen only as a first step towards addressing disappearances and witness protection. It noted the growing threats to political freedom. A number of long prison sentences had been abusively imposed for *lèse majesté* under article 112 of the Criminal Code and under the 2007 Computer Crime Act. Academics and human rights defenders calling for the revision of article 112 had been threatened in recent months. The Centre called on the Government to end such threats and the abusive use of *lèse majesté*, and to allow a country visit by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression. It also noted with concern that the universal periodic review process had not addressed the increasingly grave rights violations connected to development projects, as well as the grabbing of land and natural resources. It also expressed concern at reported threats and attacks, including abusive legal attacks and extrajudicial killings, against human rights defenders working on environmental issues.

524. In a joint statement, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, Mouvement international d'apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, Association Points-Coeur and the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul expressed their concern about the direct and indirect discrimination against children belonging to ethnic minorities and children with disabilities. They were also concerned about the difficulty of ensuring birth registration of the most vulnerable children in the north and north-east. Children with disabilities in remote villages encountered serious barriers to the full enjoyment of their rights. They noted a number of problems in access to education, such as the persistence of tuition fees, inadequately qualified teachers in rural and indigenous schools, and that the bilingual education system was not fully effective.

525. Action Canada for Population and Development welcomed the Government's acknowledgement of the human rights of sex workers to health-care information and services. It hoped that the Government would develop concrete plans and strategies to address the stigma and discrimination of sex workers, as well as of effective and rights-based strategies to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care. While acknowledging the Government's efforts to provide universal health care to vulnerable groups, it remained concerned that migrants with irregular status had no access to health-care information and services. It urged the Government to consult and collaborate with local rights-based non-governmental organizations working with people experiencing stigma, discrimination and marginalization.

526. The International Commission of Jurists welcomed the commitments made by Thailand to address the issue of impunity. While victims might seek compensation from the Government for any wrongful act committed by its agents, this was just one element in combating impunity. Thailand must make a clear and public commitment to ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations were brought to trial and duly punished. The Commission urged Thailand to respond positively to recommendations relating to repealing section 17 of the Emergency Decree and abolishing provisions of the martial law that grant immunity from criminal and civil prosecution to State officials, and to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance promptly.

527. The International Federation for Human Rights regretted the fact that Thailand had not accepted key recommendations related to core human rights concerns, which

undermined its compliance with international human rights law, including the restriction of freedom of expression through the use of the *lèse majesté* law and the Computer Crimes Act, as well as the draconian special security laws. It regretted Thailand's rejection of recommendations on the abolition of the death penalty, despite the reference of the second national human rights plan of action to parliamentary debate of capital crimes and the replacement of the death penalty with life imprisonment. Thailand should devote adequate resources to the planned study on the possibility of abolition, which should benefit from broad consultations. It urged Thailand to set target dates for the conclusion of its consideration of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto.

528. Amnesty International expressed its disappointment that Thailand had rejected the recommendations to abolish the death penalty and had resumed executions in 2009 after a hiatus of six years. It was concerned that all death row prisoners continued to be shackled, despite a court decision in 2009 declaring the practice illegal, and that over half of all death sentences were passed for drug-related offences, in contravention of international law. Amnesty International stated that Muslim insurgents had committed acts constituting war crimes, while security forces had used torture and other ill-treatment in their counter-insurgency efforts. No official or member of the security forces had been prosecuted for human rights violations since the conflict resumed in 2004. It urged Thailand to suspend application of the *lèse majesté* law and the Computer-related Crime Act until they were brought into compliance with international standards, and to release prisoners of conscience detained under these laws.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

529. The delegation of Thailand indicated that it would not be able to respond to all the concerns raised, but wished to clarify some key concerns.

530. With regard to past political violence, Thailand intended to make every effort to further national reconciliation by providing justice for all the victims and ensuring an inclusive process of political dialogue.

531. Thailand attached the highest priority to the rights of all vulnerable groups and intended to do more.

532. Concerning the security laws, Thailand reiterated its policy of progressively ending their use as the situation improved. Regarding section 17 of the Emergency Decree, this provision did not grant immunity to State officials. It did not preclude the right of persons to seek compensation for wrongdoing. While Thailand was not in a position to accept recommendations to repeal this provision or to review its security laws, it accepted recommendations to increase its efforts to put an end to impunity. This reflected its determination to address this challenge, including through awareness-raising on the rule of law and human rights principles for law enforcement officers, while ensuring justice for all affected persons.

533. Although Thailand was not a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, it had always lived up to its humanitarian obligations. Thailand's unique location required that it consider the security implications of these instruments. Nevertheless, a mechanism was in place to review Thailand's position, and further consideration of this matter would be made.

534. Given the large number of migrants, Thailand had to handle the matter of migration carefully. It had made progress on the protection of migrant workers, but more needed to be done. Thailand would study the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, though its final position would

depend on the study's results. Thailand had accepted several recommendations on migrant workers.

535. On capital punishment, views and concerns were noted. Discussions on this issue were needed at the national level, given that views still varied among sectors of society. Thailand was giving careful consideration to this matter.

536. On the issue of freedom of expression, Thailand had heard the concerns and views raised. Those who understood the nature of Thai society and the key pillars of the Thai nation would realize that this was an issue that only the Thai people could settle, and such a process was ongoing.

537. Today was the beginning of the national implementation phase. Thailand intended to make use of the universal periodic review to further advance human rights and nation-building. It hoped to work with relevant stakeholders in implementing the accepted recommendations and voluntary pledges.

538. Thailand hoped to present a midterm report to maintain the momentum of the universal periodic review process. It thanked all delegations, the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand and civil society organizations for their comments, and the troika and the secretariat for their hard work and support.

Ireland

539. The review of Ireland was held on 6 October 2012 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Ireland in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/IRL/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/IRL/2 and A/HRC/WG.6/12/IRL/2/Corr.1);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/IRL/3).

540. At its 39th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Ireland (see section C below).

541. The outcome of the review of Ireland comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/9), the views of Ireland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/9/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

542. The Ambassador of Ireland highlighted the fact that the universal periodic review was an important process in raising awareness of and standards in relation to human rights for all States at the global level. He expressed his gratitude to Irish civil society and the non-governmental organizations that had engaged thoroughly to raise awareness of the review mechanism in general. One of the great strengths of the universal periodic review was its emphasis on consultation, which was central to the process.

543. The national human rights institution of Ireland, the Human Rights Commission, had played a significant part in informing the public about the importance and value of the

universal periodic review process by holding its own information sessions around the country and offering advice and guidance to people who wished to make submissions. Together with representatives from non-governmental organizations, they had supported the consultation process by providing independent speakers with the opportunity to take part in public meetings.

544. The protection and promotion of human rights required continuous review and updating. In Ireland, the Constitution provided a strong foundation for the protection of human rights, both those specified in the Constitution and derived from its underlying principles. There was also a strong legislative framework to further protect individuals from discrimination, inequality and unjust treatment.

545. The Government had announced its decision in September 2011 to improve Ireland's human rights infrastructure by merging the Human Rights Commission and the Equality Authority into a new Human Rights and Equality Commission, in order to promote human rights and equality issues in a more effective, efficient and cohesive way. A working group comprising an interdepartmental chairperson, members of both existing bodies, and officials from the Department of Justice and Equality had held a consultation process to seek the views of civil society and members of the public on what the new body should do, what features and functions it should have, how it should be structured and what working methods it should employ.

546. The working group had almost completed its report, which would be presented to the Government shortly. The new Human Rights and Equality Commission would build on the achievements of the current bodies to forge an even stronger culture of human rights awareness and protection in Ireland.

547. Of the 127 recommendations made by Member States, Ireland had immediately accepted 62, was unable to support 15, and pledged to further examine 50. The Interdepartmental Working Group on the universal periodic review, comprising representatives from all relevant Government departments, had responded to 50 outstanding recommendations in the addendum.

548. Of the 50 pending recommendations, Ireland had fully accepted 29, partially accepted 17, and was unable to support only 4. The addendum contained concise explanations on the responses to each recommendation. Of a total of 127 recommendations, Ireland had fully accepted 91, and 17 had been accepted in part.

549. The most important phase of the entire process was the implementation of commitments. Some of the recommendations had already been implemented, while other areas of implementation were under way.

550. During the interactive dialogue, for example, many States had raised the question of prison accommodation, in particular, overcrowding and in-cell sanitation. On 6 March 2012, Minister Shatter had visited Mountjoy Prison in Dublin to inspect the recently refurbished C Division, which was due to reopen. Although the project was extremely complex, the refurbished accommodation would provide radically improved physical conditions for prisoners, including a dedicated committal/assessment area with 28 cells for new prisoners, as recommended by the Inspector of Prisons in his report of 2009, and a new dedicated drug-free area. The refurbishment project had also seen the introduction of in-cell sanitation in all cells in C Division; a similar refurbishment project would commence in B Division within the next few weeks, which, when completed, would involve the installation of in-cell sanitation in all cells in B Wing. A total of 317 cells in Mountjoy prison would therefore have in-cell sanitation, almost 60 per cent of the total prison, by the end of 2012. The developments in Mountjoy and the implementation of the proposals for Cork prison, which had been recently announced by the Minister, were the realization of the Government's commitment, as indicated at the review of Ireland in October.

551. With regard to Ireland's position on abortion and the response to the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on *ABC v. Ireland*, the Government had set up an expert group to examine the judgement, to elucidate its implications for the provision of health-care services to pregnant women in Ireland, and to recommend a series of options on how to implement the judgement, taking into account the constitutional, legal, medical and ethical considerations involved in the formulation of public policy in this area and the need for speedy action. The expert group was established on 13 January 2012 and was composed of 14 experts in the fields of obstetrics, psychiatry, general practice, law, professional regulation and public policy. It was chaired by a judge of the Irish High Court and would present the Government with its written report by the end of July 2012.

552. The Government had also announced its decision to sign the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in the coming weeks at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The current programme for the Government clearly stated the policy and goal of forging a new Ireland based on fairness and equality. The complaints mechanism that would be established by the Optional Protocol was in keeping with the spirit of the many independent complaints, monitoring and inspection bodies currently in place in Ireland. Signing the Optional Protocol would be an opportunity to continue to affirm Ireland's determination to achieve full respect for human rights in practice.

553. The proposed wording for a referendum on children's rights was currently being finalized, with a view to holding the referendum later in 2012.

554. Ireland had chosen to prepare and submit a voluntary interim report on its progress in implementing its commitments.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

555. Algeria welcomed the acceptance by Ireland of a number of recommendations, including some on the rights of persons with disabilities, the need to take effective measures to improve prison conditions, and to continue the implementation of policies concerning domestic violence. Algeria expressed its hope that Ireland would reconsider its position on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Algeria wished Ireland well in the implementation of the recommendations.

556. Uruguay valued the acceptance by Ireland of a number of recommendations to ratify international human rights instruments. It considered, that Ireland should however, keep under consideration the recommendation to accede to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Uruguay encouraged Ireland to strengthen legislation and policies aiming at assigning a tutor to non-accompanied asylum-seeking children. Uruguay referred also to one of their recommendations, which had been partially accepted, and encouraged Ireland to make progress in ensuring the legal prohibition of all forms of corporal punishment against children.

557. The Republic of Moldova welcomed Ireland's constructive engagement with the universal periodic review process, applauded Ireland for its cooperation with civil society and acknowledged Ireland's acceptance of a significant number of recommendations. It expressed its appreciation to Ireland for having accepted the three recommendations that the Republic of Moldova had made during the review. It noted that Ireland had strengthened its policies and laws on domestic violence, as well as the measures to eliminate inequality between men and women. The Republic of Moldova welcomed

Ireland's intention to establish a disability forum and expressed the hope that this initiative would result in greater empowerment for people with disabilities.

558. The Islamic Republic of Iran hoped that the recommendations would be implemented by Ireland. It remained concerned over incidences of human rights violations in the country, especially with regard to racism, xenophobia, discrimination against Muslims and persons belonging to minorities; lack of legislation proscribing racial profiling by the police and other law enforcement personnel; and the low living standards in many prisons, including overcrowding and inadequate sanitation and health care. The Islamic Republic of Iran had made a number of recommendations to Ireland.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

559. The Irish Human Rights Commission welcomed the wide range of issues raised and the recommendations made during Ireland's review. It stated that the report of the working group could serve as a template for advancing human rights issues, and hoped that Ireland's progress in implementing the recommendations would underscore its application for membership to the Human Rights Council. It stressed the need for Ireland to guarantee sufficient resources to the Human Rights and Equality Commission. Ireland needed to make serious, sustained and quantifiable efforts in a number of core areas identified by the working group in its report.

560. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland, speaking also on behalf of ILGA-Europe and GLEN, welcomed progress in addressing the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. It welcomed Ireland's commitment to progressing same-sex marriage through the Constitutional Convention, and urged Ireland to address the legal recognition and support of children in same-sex-headed families. With regard to challenges, it was essential that Ireland remain committed to promoting full equality of young LGBT people. COC Nederland remained concerned by legal provisions allowing for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in certain institutions, and called for legislative reform.

561. Action Canada for Population and Development, speaking on behalf of the Irish Family Planning Association and Sexual Rights Initiative, expressed concern with regard to Ireland's rejection of all the recommendations on women's reproductive rights. These recommendations were consistent with the criticism made by treaty bodies. The rejection of these recommendations was unacceptable and amounted to a considered disregard by Ireland of its human rights obligations, and fell short of the principles of universality, indivisibility and interdependence. The European Women's Lobby⁷⁹ expressed concern at the rejection of recommendations 108.4 to 108.9 on the regulation of abortion. It made reference to another accepted recommendation (107.4), and called on the Government to institute a statutory inquiry and compensation scheme for the Magdalene laundries abuse. The European Women's Lobby expressed concern at Ireland's response to recommendation 107.23 calling for the implementation and an independent assessment of the national women's strategy, and noted that an independent review would enhance the strategy. It urged Ireland to sign the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

⁷⁹ The statement was supported by AkidWA, Banulacht, Cáirde, the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, the Irish Family Planning Association, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, Justice for Magdalenes, the Migrant Rights Centre of Ireland, the National Collective of Community-Based Women's Networks, the National Traveller Women's Forum, the National Women's Council of Ireland, OPEN, the Pavee Point Travellers Centre and Women's Aid.

562. The International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism, on behalf of Pavee Point, stated that Ireland continued to ignore the opinions and recommendations of a range of eminent international and regional human rights bodies that had taken the position that the Traveller community met all the legal criteria to be recognized as an ethnic minority. A report released in 2010 had revealed that Traveller mortality was higher than that of the general population. It urged Ireland to engage with Traveller organizations to formulate a response to the issues raised in the said report.

563. The International Federation for Human Rights Leagues welcomed Ireland's acceptance of 91 recommendations. It remained concerned about the declaration of partial acceptance of 17 recommendations, where it was not clear in what precise manner each recommendation has been accepted. It urged Ireland to ratify all core United Nations human rights instruments, especially those with monitoring mechanisms, such as the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and called on Ireland to set out a clear timetable in this regard. It remained concerned about the rejection of recommendations regarding the implementation of the judgement of the European Court of Human Rights on access to abortion, putting an end to ongoing religious discrimination in access to schools and recognizing Travellers as an official ethnic minority group.

564. Amnesty International urged Ireland to ratify, without further delay, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, which had been signed almost five years earlier. Ireland must recognize in law the rights to health and housing. It urged consideration of these rights at the upcoming review of Ireland's Constitution. It also urged Ireland to sign and ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence without delay. It encouraged Ireland to set time frames, to establish a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of accepted recommendations, and to undertake to provide a midterm report.

565. Age Action Ireland, a member of the HelpAge International network, together with the coalition partners (Disability Federation Ireland, the MakeRoom Campaign Alliance, Mental Health Reform and the Women's Human Rights Alliance) welcomed the spirit in which the universal periodic review process of Ireland had been conducted. It commended Ireland for committing to sign the Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It also welcomed the partial acceptance of the recommendation to incorporate into the law the rights to health and housing, and to bring legislation into line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It hoped that civil society and the Government could work together, including in the preparation of the interim report.

566. The society for the Protection of Unborn Children stated that it was the will of the Irish people that the right to life of unborn babies be protected from the very beginning. During the universal periodic review, many States had called for Ireland to introduce abortion. It expressed appreciation for the Irish delegation's rejection of these calls. Ireland had an excellent record in protecting the lives of both mothers and babies. Life-saving medical interventions for pregnant women had always been available. While some children may not survive those interventions, their deaths were an undesired consequence of the treatment of the mother's condition rather than the intended result of the doctor's actions. Such interventions should not be confused with abortion procedures.

567. The European Disability Forum, on behalf of the Equality and Rights Alliance (Ireland), welcomed Ireland's acceptance of the recommendations on the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities, as well as Costa Rica's recommendation that measures be taken to allow people with disabilities access to education, employment, housing, transport and cultural life, and to facilitate their access to

public places and services. It called on Ireland to ensure that the proposed new unified Human Rights and Equality Commission was independent, adequately resourced and prioritized the ratification of the Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. This new body must have a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

568. The Ambassador of Ireland thanked all intervening delegations and civil society representatives. He stressed that discrimination against Muslims and minorities was combated in a most comprehensive manner. The role of the National Disability Authority was to monitor compliance with domestic disability legislation. The Ambassador also noted the necessity for further consultation regarding the recognition of Travellers as an ethnic group. Lastly, he highlighted the continuation of dialogue with civil society for the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, the new modalities for the second cycle and the onus on States for the implementation of their commitments.

Togo

569. The review of Togo was held on 6 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Togo in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TGO/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TGO/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TOG/3).

570. At its 39th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Togo (see section C below).

571. The outcome of the review of Togo comprised the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/10), the views of Togo concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/10/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

572. The delegation of Togo recalled that during its review, 133 recommendations had been made, of which 112 had been accepted (23 of which had already been implemented or were being implemented), 11 had been rejected and 10 had been under study until the nineteenth session.

573. The delegation stated that, as part of the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendations, four essential points were raised: (a) responses to deferred recommendations; (b) progress achieved since Togo's review; (c) measures taken by the Government following the enquiry report of the National Commission on Human Rights on allegations of torture; and (d) the national plan of action on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

574. The responses to deferred recommendations could be categorized into two groups: (a) ratification of international instruments on human rights and; (b) standing invitations to the special procedures.

575. With respect to the first group, the delegation indicated that instructions had been given to the Ministry in charge of the promotion of women to commence the procedure of ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The delegation was also pleased to inform the Council that the National Assembly had adopted the law authorizing the ratification of the Convention against Discrimination in Education of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Lastly, the delegation stated that the Government had been studying with interest the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

576. Concerning the second group of recommendations, the Government had been willing to accept invitations that would be formally addressed by special procedures, and would cooperate fully with the mandate holders.

577. Among the achievements made by Togo since the review in October 2011, the Government had launched, in February 2012, the national agricultural investment programme, which was aimed at improving life conditions of people in rural areas, particularly women and children. WHO had certified that Togo was one of the countries that had eradicated the Guinea worm.

578. The delegation also informed the Council that the bill on the revision of the Criminal Code had taken into account international instruments ratified by Togo, particularly the definition and repression of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The bill had been finalized and would be considered by the Council of Ministers. Some 500 prison guards (of which a third were female) would be trained and operational in six months' time.

579. The delegation stated that, in February 2012, the National Human Rights Commission had presented a report on allegations of torture by the National Intelligence Agency. The Government had taken measures to implement the recommendations made by the Commission, including (a) the reorganization of the National Intelligence Agency; (b) a prohibition on keeping on its premises persons arrested for custody or for preventive detention; (c) the inclusion in the preliminary bill on the Criminal Code of the definition of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; (d) the revision of the Organic Law to allow the Commission to carry out investigations and to prevent, if applicable, any action by public officials that could be considered an act of torture; (e) the budgetary and infrastructure strengthening of the Commission; (f) the Minister for Justice had been instructed to propose a draft reform on prison administration; and (g) strengthening the organization, equipment and training of the judicial police.

580. Other recommendations accepted included that (a) instructions be given to the military command to immediately start disciplinary procedures against officials called into investigation; (b) an urgent examination be made by a specialized team of persons that had been subjected to inhuman and/or degrading treatment in the National Intelligence Agency, with the aim of providing them with appropriate reparation; (c) health treatment be provided to people in custody; (d) assurance be given to the President of the Commission and his family that measures had been taken to ensure their safety; (e) an interministerial commission be established to follow up on the implementation of the Commission recommendations.

581. The delegation reiterated the determination of the Government to fulfil its human rights obligations. Togo had adopted a participatory approach in the preparation of its national report, and would follow the same approach in the implementation of the universal

periodic review recommendations. Indeed, the Ministry for Human Rights had organized, with the support of OHCHR, sectoral workshops that had led to the development of a five-year plan of action for implementing universal periodic review recommendations. In March 2012, various stakeholders had approved the plan, which would be adopted by the Council of Ministers.

582. The plan of action was designed to meet the challenges that Togo faced in the field of human rights. Ten main fields were considered: (a) the ratification of international instruments on human rights; (b) the harmonization of national legislation with international instruments; (c) strengthening the independence of the judiciary; (d) access to justice and the fight against impunity; (e) capacity-building of institutions, State and non-State actors; (f) the promotion and protection of the rights of specific groups (women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly); (g) the fight against poverty and the promotion of good governance; (h) promoting the right to health, nutrition and education; (i) the integration of human rights into school curricula; and (j) cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

583. Togo counted on international cooperation, as it was convinced that, with the support of the United Nations system and other partners, it would succeed in implementing the recommendations that it had accepted. Togo was convinced that the promotion and protection of human rights not only contributed to development but was also a key factor of stability and social peace. It therefore requested the support of the international community in the implementation of the national plan of action on universal periodic review recommendations.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

584. Cuba noted that, in spite of challenges common to other developing countries, Togo had made important efforts to promote and protect all human rights of its people. Significantly, the right to a healthy environment enjoyed constitutional status. Regarding one of the most pressing priorities, the right to food, Togo had taken various initiatives to increase agricultural production. Cuba noted with satisfaction the health development plan and the implementation of strategies to defeat malaria and HIV/AIDS, and to reduce infant mortality. Cuba recommended that the report of the Working Group on the universal periodic review of Togo should be adopted.

585. Algeria expressed its confidence that Togo would continue to progress on the path to democracy and economic and social development. It appreciated the fact that Togo had accepted the two recommendations that it had made to promote the rights of women. It wished Togo success in implementing its accepted recommendations.

586. Morocco paid tribute to all efforts made by Togo to build stability in the process of national reconciliation after having courageously overcome the social unrest and turmoil that had ravaged the country for years. Morocco congratulated Togo on having accepted almost all recommendations made during the review, especially the two recommendations drafted by Morocco, which was also satisfied by Togo's response on the commission on truth and reconciliation.

587. Chad praised Togo for having accepted a large number of recommendations, including those submitted by its delegation, for which it thanked Togo. It reiterated its recommendation that Togo should seek financial and technical assistance from the international community to support its efforts to implement its universal periodic review commitments.

588. The Republic of Moldova noted with satisfaction that Togo had demonstrated its engagement in human rights by supporting a considerable number of recommendations at

the end of its universal periodic review. In particular, the Republic of Moldova appreciated Togo's support for its recommendations, and congratulated it on the ratification of the UNESCO Convention on Discrimination in Education. It recommended that the report of the Working Group on Togo be adopted.

589. The Democratic Republic of the Congo stressed Togo's efforts to protect social and economic rights and, in particular, the adoption of a national housing programme for the period 2009–2013. Noting the many human rights challenges that the country faced, it thanked Togo for having accepted its recommendation, and encouraged it to step up its efforts to eliminate discrimination against women. It also encouraged Togo to strengthen its action to help people living with HIV/AIDS and the measures under way to guarantee food security to its people.

590. Senegal appreciated Togo's open dialogue in the context of its universal periodic review and the fact that it had supported many of the recommendations made, including those on women's and children's rights. The implementation of these recommendations, together with the efforts already made in the economic domain, would allow Togo to reinforce the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

591. Benin lauded Togo's acceptance of more than 112 recommendations. It noted that it had ratified most international human rights instruments and had demonstrated its determination to observe universally accepted values. As examples, Benin listed the abolition of the death penalty, the effort to promote peace and harmony through the commission for truth, justice and reconciliation, and its steps to promote the rights of women and children and to improve the living conditions of its people. Benin invited the international community to support the reforms under way in Togo.

592. Burkina Faso believed that Togo's spirit of cooperation in dealing with the Human Rights Council was a sign of its willingness to promote and guarantee the human rights for all its citizens. Burkina Faso welcomed Togo's efforts in this regard and was ready to cooperate with it bilaterally and at the regional and subregional levels. Burkina Faso called on the international community to give Togo all necessary technical and financial assistance, and recommended the adoption of the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

593. Côte d'Ivoire hailed Togo's vanguard role in the promotion and protection of human rights referring to the establishment of its human rights commission (with "A" status) and the work of its truth and reconciliation commission. It recognized Togo's political courage in accepting 112 recommendations, and invited the international community to support this effort. It thanked Togo for its solidarity with Côte d'Ivoire throughout the crisis of the past decade, including by accepting Ivorian refugees and hosting the first peace negotiations.

594. Tunisia thanked Togo for having accepted almost all recommendations made during the review, and noted with appreciation the reforms made in the fields of health, food, security and social protection, and the achievements made in the fight against poverty, the rights of the child and fundamental freedoms. Tunisia believed that the international community should support Togo in its efforts and determination to engage in its reforms towards democracy and development. Tunisia recommended the adoption of the report of the Working Group.

595. Djibouti noted with satisfaction the numerous efforts made by the Government of Togo to strengthen democracy and social dialogue, and welcomed its support for the majority of recommendations made during its universal periodic review. Djibouti recommended the adoption of the report of the Working Group.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

596. The National Human Rights Commission welcomed the universal periodic review process, which had allowed for an assessment of the human rights situation and provided recommendations to strengthen the ongoing process towards democracy. The Commission had actively encouraged the Government to promote a culture of human rights. It had participated in the universal periodic review follow-up mechanism established by the Government, and had supported the implementation of the recommendations as well as of those it had made in its latest report concerning allegations of torture. The Commission cited as priorities the fight against impunity and corruption, the protection of civil liberties and the imperative of development, stressing that human rights were indivisible and universal. It reiterated its invitation to the international community to continue to support the difficult and sometimes dangerous efforts made by Commission members to turn Togo into a place of peace and justice.

597. The Association for the Prevention of Torture welcomed Togo's support for the recommendations on the prevention and prohibition of torture in the framework of its universal periodic review and for the Government's announcement of 13 measures concerning the implementation of the recommendations by the National Human Rights Commission relating to allegations of torture perpetrated during an attempted coup d'état in April 2009. It encouraged Togo to implement those recommendations and to complete, as soon as possible, the reform of the Criminal Code in order to ensure that torture would be defined in conformity with article 1 of the Convention against Torture and that perpetrators would be punished appropriately. The Association also welcomed Togo's engagement in the creation of a national mechanism for the prevention of torture, and hoped that the new mechanism would be independent and effective. The realization of this engagement would represent a best practice that other countries could take as an example.

598. A statement delivered by the Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, also on behalf of the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development, Mouvement international d'apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants and the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, welcomed Togo's constructive engagement with the universal periodic review, its adoption of a plan of action based on its recommendations, and its decision made in 2008 relating to free primary education. It questioned the reliability of official statistics. It welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to strengthen the education system and to eliminate discrimination against the disabled. It noted the lack of planning policy, poor educational infrastructures, the lack of teachers, the overcrowding and poor management of schools and the related proliferation of private schools. It recommended the registration of all children at birth, a global education reform based on reliable data and integrating on equal footing disabled children, and steps to implement article 376 of the Code of the Child, and to punish violence against children.

599. Fédération internationale des ligues des droits de l'homme welcomed Togo's engagement in the universal periodic review, especially its willingness to eradicate torture and to improve the judicial and prison systems. It called for prompt implementation of the recommendations and the ratification of the Rome Statute and of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It also welcomed the revision of the Criminal Code and the reinforcement of the remits and the capacities of the National Human Rights Commission. The organization also urged Togo to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and to extend a standing invitation to the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

600. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme welcomed Togo's engagement with the universal periodic review and its cooperation with civil society actors.

It noted that, after years marked by a wide range of human rights violations, it was time to renew dialogue with the international community to promote and protect human rights. It welcomed the decriminalization of press freedom, the abolition of the death penalty, the Code of the Child, the law on rape, and the truth, justice and reconciliation commission, although it noted the lack of credibility of certain members. It regretted that none of the recommendations of the fact-finding mission conducted in 2005 had been implemented, and deplored the fact that the President of the National Human Rights Commission had been forced to seek refuge abroad following the publication of the Commission's report.

601. The Democracy Coalition Project, with the support of Réseau ouest africain des défenseurs des droits humains, stated that the President of the National Human Rights Commission had left the country with his family because their safety was at stake after the publication of a report on allegations of torture. It urged the Government to ensure protection to the other members of the Commission. The Project was concerned at the lack of independence of the judicial system in spite of the reform made in 2009. The situation of prisons and detention conditions, as well as the Civil Code and the Family Code, were not yet compliant with international standards. It urged the Government to address the above-mentioned issues and to work with civil society for the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

602. The International Federation of Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture welcomed Togo's intention to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on Enforced Disappearances, and called for a precise calendar in this regard. It noted the frequent practice of torture and ill-treatment, recalled that torture was inappropriately punished, underlined the lack of training of the judiciary police, the lack of provisions in the Penal Procedure Code relating to the presence of defence lawyers and the right to be examined by a doctor in police custody, and deplored the frequent cases of prolonged detention without charge of trial. It hoped to be allowed to comment on the draft review of the Criminal Code.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

603. The delegation expressed its thanks for the support for Togo's efforts to promote and protect human rights. The delegation reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the recommendations included in the plan of action, and recalled the need for the support of the international community to ensure it.

Syrian Arab Republic

604. The review of the Syrian Arab Republic was held on 7 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SYR/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SYR/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/SYR/3).

605. At its 39th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Syrian Arab Republic (see section C below).

606. The outcome of the review of the Syrian Arab Republic comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/11), together with the views of the Syrian Arab Republic concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its

voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/11/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

607. The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic believed in the importance of the universal periodic review mechanism and would work with other States to strengthen human rights mechanisms, free from politicization and double standards. It wished to take advantage of the recommendations made to advance human rights, especially during the current period when the Government was working to build a new State based on human rights, despite the great difficulties. The commitment of the Syrian Arab Republic to human rights was based on the fundamental principle that these rights are universal and indivisible. The responsibility to protect the people and their human rights lay with the State and could not be achieved through foreign interference.

608. The delegation pointed out that the Syrian Arab Republic had rejected the recommendations that were aimed at condemning it rather than protecting human rights, and which constituted interference in its internal affairs. The Syrian Arab Republic would not allow the hidden intentions of foreign States to disrupt national efforts to promote and protect human rights. The delegation thus thanked all States that had contributed positively to the review and provided objective and constructive recommendations.

609. The delegation noted that, immediately following the review, the national committee that had prepared the universal periodic review report had examined ways and means to implement accepted recommendations and worked to determine a position on recommendations that had been postponed for further consideration. Over the past five months, the Syrian Arab Republic had suffered from terrorist acts by armed groups, unprecedented in its history. Innocent civilians had been harmed, property destroyed and people displaced in violation of all laws and human rights. On 12 March, the city of Homs had suffered a massacre that had all the hallmarks of Al-Qaida, and innocent women and children had been killed. The Syrian Arab Republic regarded those who were responsible for providing media, financial and weapons support as complicit in the bloodshed.

610. Nevertheless, the reforms initiated by the State continued, based on the legitimate demands of the people. The Government continued to believe in coexistence, despite the attempts at ethnic cleansing and displacement. On 26 February, Syrians had voted in a referendum for a new Constitution that sought to protect and promote human rights. The new Constitution brought radical changes in order to meet the demands of the Syrian people. The leadership of the State by the Ba'ath party was repealed from the Constitution, and the President's mandate would be limited and could only be extended once. Other amendments opened the way to political pluralism and the democratic transfer of power. They upheld political, economic and social human rights and promoted the rule of law, while protecting cultural diversity. The new Constitution had been approved by 89 per cent of voters.

611. Despite the continued violence, support for armed groups and unjust economic sanctions, the Syrian Arab Republic had reiterated its commitment to human rights and announced the acceptance of 24 more recommendations, in addition to those already accepted in October 2011. It had accepted recommendations to establish a national human rights institution and placed particular importance on recommendations concerning national dialogue, which was the only solution to the current crisis. It had opened the door to dialogue with all parties, although the armed opposition supported by foreign powers had rejected this offer.

612. To accelerate reform, article 13 of the new Constitution aimed at increasing the national income and development of production, raising living standards and creating employment. Economic sanctions imposed outside the scope of international law had, however, violated the economic and social rights of the people, and their impact made more severe by the destruction of infrastructure through terrorist acts.

613. The delegation made comments with regard to the recommendations accepted by the Syrian Arab Republic and considered to be in the process of implementation:

(a) With regard to recommendations 1 to 3, on the harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of international instruments, particularly the Convention against Torture, the Ministry of the Interior had issued circulars prohibiting all forms of torture and arrests without evidence, requiring families to be informed on the whereabouts of detained family members and providing for the accountability of those responsible for concealing information;

(b) With regard to recommendation 11 on the rules of engagement for the security services and human rights training for the police, the Ministry of the Interior had put in place a training plan on crowd control for riot police in line with the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials and the Basic Principles for the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials. The Syrian Arab Republic had established a national commission of inquiry that was now considering nearly 5,000 cases, and it had provided detailed information to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on cases in which penalties had been imposed on members of the security forces for violations of human rights or that had been referred to justice;

(c) With regard to recommendation 12, on the reform of the judicial system, article 154 of the new Constitution provided for legislative reform to be implemented within a period of three years;

(d) With regard to recommendation 13, on respect for freedom of expression, the Syrian Arab Republic had enshrined this right in the new Constitution, and a new media law had been adopted two months earlier;

(e) With regard to recommendation 14, on the review of the Personal Status Law, to ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights, the Syrian Arab Republic was working with national non-governmental organizations to resolve gaps in the existing law.

614. With regard to pending recommendations, the Syrian Arab Republic had accepted recommendation 2, on acceding to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees; recommendations 4 to 6, on the incorporation into national law of provisions contained in human rights treaties, including the definition of torture as contained in the Convention against Torture; recommendation 7, on the withdrawal of reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child; recommendation 10, on compliance with the Convention against Torture; recommendations 11 to 23, on cooperation with the international commission of inquiry and OHCHR, allowing them entry to the country; and recommendations 24 and 25, on cooperation with special procedures mandate holders.

615. With regard to the recommendations that the Syrian Arab Republic regarded as already implemented, the delegation pointed out that, in the case of recommendations 22 and 23, on freedom of expression and association, in addition to measures already taken, the Syrian Arab Republic was already elaborating a law on the work of non-governmental organizations, which would permit the establishment of different types of organizations.

616. The delegation also presented additional information on a number of rejected recommendations, particularly those that it considered not to be compatible with the spirit of the universal periodic review mechanism. At the same time, in an effort to further promote and protect human rights, the delegation announced that the Syrian Arab Republic

was in a position to accept recommendations allowing the access of international media, noting that it had already allowed more than 147 foreign media outlets to enter the country since the universal periodic review meeting in October 2011.

617. The delegation deplored the fact that terrorist acts had impeded the State's ability to implement some recommendations, but noted that the Government would not renounce its responsibility to protect the Syrian people.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

618. Cuba highlighted the approval of a new Constitution with the support of 89 per cent of voters, which demonstrated the support of the people for the reform measures. One positive step was the creation of a commission to study the socioeconomic reality of the country, which reflected the priority given by the authorities to the well-being of its population. Cuba reiterated its opposition to foreign intervention. It also reiterated its confidence in the ability of the people and the Government to resolve their domestic problems without external interference, and called for full respect of the right of self-determination of this Arab nation.

619. Nicaragua noted the political will of the Syrian authorities to achieve national reconciliation. The Human Rights Council should cooperate and show solidarity with all States, without imposing measures that could not lead to an adequate solution. Selectivity should not become the spirit of the Council. Nicaragua appreciated the fact that the Syrian Arab Republic had made efforts to re-establish a democratic order. National dialogue had to take place without interference from abroad. Nicaragua also highlighted the political will demonstrated by the Government in receiving Kofi Annan, who could make a constructive contribution to the national dialogue.

620. Uruguay called on the Syrian Arab Republic to end the repression of its own people, arbitrary detention, extrajudicial executions and torture. It urged the State to allow a visit by the commission of inquiry created by the Human Rights Council. Uruguay called on the Syrian Arab Republic to release all prisoners of conscience and those arrested arbitrarily, and to end intimidation, persecution and arbitrary arrest. Recommendations on ending violent repression, initiating an open and inclusive national dialogue and launching a transparent investigation remained valid and necessary. Uruguay reiterated its recommendation that the Syrian Arab Republic should cease the de facto reinstatement of the death penalty.

621. Algeria noted that, in the current situation, the Human Rights Council was not only concerned with the review of the Syrian Arab Republic under the universal periodic review, but also with the resolutions and decisions taken at its special sessions and urgent debates on the country. Algeria asked what procedure should best be adopted to appropriately deal with this situation and to reconcile the two different tracks, while addressing the situation with the priority that it deserved.

622. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the Syrian Arab Republic for its adoption of a new Constitution, which stipulated the principle of political plurality. It was concerned that the human rights efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic were being hampered by unilateral sanctions, which had had a negative impact on the Government's efforts to provide basic services to the people. The support that armed groups had received from certain countries only served to encourage their violations of the right to life. It was important to fully respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Member States. Any development process could only be an outcome of Syrian-led policies, without any foreign intervention.

623. The Islamic Republic of Iran noted the determination of the Syrian Arab Republic to promote human rights and democracy by responding to the demands of the people and by adopting a new Constitution, which had taken into consideration many new commitments in the area of human rights. The Syrian Arab Republic had accepted a number of recommendations, which should be fully implemented. The Islamic Republic of Iran was, however, concerned that sanctions imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic by certain countries would hamper the Government's efforts to provide basic services to its population.

624. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that the Syrian Arab Republic had adopted a new Constitution, which provided for political pluralism. It was concerned that the country's efforts to promote human rights had been hampered by harsh unilateral sanctions. It expressed concern at the support that armed groups had received from some countries, which only served to encourage the violation of the right to life. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated its faith in the ability of the Syrian people and the Government to resolve their domestic situation without any foreign intervention, in accordance with the principles of sovereignty and self-determination.

625. Ecuador called on the Government and the armed groups to respect human rights, to refrain from violence and the escalation of the armed conflict, and to engage in a peaceful and constructive dialogue to find a political solution. It hoped that the Syrian Arab Republic would consider the outcome of the review positively and implement the recommendations accepted. Ecuador believed that individual investigative procedures were not the most appropriate way to promote and protect human rights, and that the universal periodic review was a more adequate means.

626. The Russian Federation noted that the agreement of the Syrian Arab Republic to undergo its universal periodic review demonstrated that, despite the difficult period, it was open to a mutually respectful dialogue on human rights issues. It noted with satisfaction that the Syrian Arab Republic had accepted a large number of recommendations, and called on the country to make every effort to implement them.

627. China paid great attention to the developments in the Syrian Arab Republic and stood for a peaceful solution to the crisis. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and other parties should immediately and unconditionally stop all acts of violence, in particular against innocent civilians. The Government and the various factions should open an inclusive political dialogue immediately. Relevant parties in the international community should respect the independence and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and the right of the people to choose independently their political system and path of development. China supported the leading role of the United Nations in coordinating humanitarian assistance. It appealed to the Human Rights Council to conduct its work in an impartial, objective and non-selective manner, and to play a constructive role in the pursuit of an early political solution.

628. The United States of America was appalled by the worsening human rights situation. Since the review, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had engaged in even more flagrant violations of international human rights. Government forces had cracked down brutally on Syrians who demanded merely that their human rights be respected. This had resulted in the killing of more than 7,500 civilians. The people continued to endure mass arrests, arbitrary detentions, torture, targeted killings and indiscriminate bombardment by heavy artillery. A Government that ruled through terror and intimidation should step aside. The United States called on the Government to immediately facilitate access to humanitarian aid, end violence against peaceful protestors and political activists, release all prisoners of conscience, permit unrestricted access to human rights observers, including the commission of inquiry and media, and allow a Syrian-led transition towards the formation of a representative Government.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

629. The World Federation of Trade Unions expressed its support for the Syrian people and workers in their legitimate demands to achieve political, economic and social reform. The recent approval of a new Constitution by 89 per cent of voters was a sign of the popular support for this path. It was up to the Syrian people to determine their own future, without foreign interference. The Syrian Arab Republic had become the object of a political and media campaign aimed at undermining its national unity. No country had the right to organize, fund and arm terrorist groups in another country. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the imposition of unilateral economic sanctions violated human rights and needed to be stopped.

630. The Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies noted that the Syrian people, for one year, had been struggling for freedom, justice and dignity and, during the same period, had been killed, tortured and imprisoned on a massive scale. The Syrian Arab Republic had refused to end violations of international human rights law, including violent reprisals against peaceful protesters and activists, and to engage in a credible reform process. The number of documented deaths probably exceeded 10,000, with entire cities under military siege. The Security Council had failed to fulfil its obligations. The Cairo Institute called on the Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution demanding international accountability and referring the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic to the International Criminal Court. It also called on the Council to postpone the adoption of the universal periodic review outcome on the Syrian Arab Republic.

631. The International Commission of Jurists had noted the widespread violations of human rights amounting to crimes under international law, including torture, summary executions, arbitrary detention and indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population. Torture and ill-treatment were widespread and systematic. Although the Syrian authorities had lifted the state of emergency in April 2011, they had failed to abolish the State of Emergency Law. The practice of secret and other arbitrary detentions, including in unofficial detention facilities, continued. While the Syrian Arab Republic claimed that it accepted the recommendations calling for investigations and accountability, the authorities had failed to prosecute any State official or law enforcement officer for human rights violations, which might amount to crimes against humanity. The Security Council should refer this situation to the International Criminal Court. The Syrian army continued to fire explosive shells into populated areas, in particular in Homs and Edleb, and subjected whole cities and neighbourhoods to effective siege. Effective measures had to be taken to allow humanitarian access.

632. United Nations Watch joined the urgent demands made in the report on the Syrian Arab Republic to end attacks on peaceful protestors and activists, to bring violators to account, and to end its practice of arbitrarily detaining Syrians for participating in peaceful demonstrations and release all those detained, including prisoners of conscience. It applauded the vigorous work by some delegations, as well as the strong condemnation made by the League of Arab States of the violations by the Syrian Arab Republic, which had been suspended from the Human Rights Council. Further international action was, however, needed.

633. The Union of Arab Jurists regretted the dramatic situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, which highlighted the need for reforms. The adoption of the new Constitution was an important step in this regard. The implementation of reforms should be continued in order to uphold equal rights for all Syrians. Although violence and lack of security had reigned in many provinces, the Syrian Arab Republic was a stable country. Human rights reforms needed to be undertaken, but human rights should not be politicized to facilitate foreign interference. National dialogue was needed, but would only be possible once the violence had ended. Economic sanctions should be ended.

634. The General Arab Women Federation noted that violence was leaving thousands of people dead, wounded and traumatized, with dramatic effects on women and children. The media had played an unprecedented role in misinforming and blocking efforts for dialogue. Economic sanctions were also punishing the population. The Syrian Arab Republic was hosting a million refugees from Iraq, who had been given free access to all basic services. The Federation considered that criminal acts did not help to provide a solution, and that the conflict could only be resolved by peaceful means. It called for a comprehensive process of national dialogue, and mechanisms to end the arming, funding and training of insurgent groups. It called for a lifting of all sanctions imposed on the Syrian Arab Republic, and urged the Government to create a climate of trust that would allow for the implementation of the new Constitution and reforms.

635. Amnesty International noted that the authorities had accepted recommendations to guarantee the rights to freedom of expression, opinion and assembly; to end conflict and violence and find a peaceful political solution; and to investigate alleged cases of violence and deaths. It observed that these commitments appeared cynical and insincere, given the situation that prevailed. Amnesty International maintained that some of the violations by the authorities amounted to crimes against humanity. It had received the names of almost 7,000 people who had been killed or died in connection with the protests since March 2011. Many had been shot by members of the security forces or died in custody. Thousands had been arrested, and many had been held incommunicado and subjected to torture. More recently, civilian areas had been attacked with tanks, helicopters, rockets and artillery fire. Amnesty International cautioned against proceeding with this review in a routine manner.

636. CIVICUS and the Arab NGO Network for Development noted that, since the Syrian forces had invaded a number of neighbourhoods with heavy weapons on 3 February 2012, widespread destruction and death had resulted, with a particularly heavy impact on women and children. Such essential services as water, phone and electricity had been cut, and access to medical services and humanitarian assistance was blocked. The authorities had even blown up a bridge that people had used to take refuge in Lebanon. Many areas and cities, such as Homs and Hama, had suffered a real catastrophe. The Syrian Arab Republic had witnessed a great revolution; in order for negotiations to take place, the Government had to give up power peacefully so that a State based on human rights could be built. Access to the Syrian Arab Republic should be allowed and the army withdrawn from the streets.

637. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme quoted Victor Hugo by stating that "to remain silent in the face of crime is to participate in crime".

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

638. The Syrian Arab Republic thanked the delegations that had made constructive statements and suggestions, as well as the members of the troika and the secretariat who had contributed to the adoption of the report.

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

639. The review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was held on 7 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/VEN/1 and A/HRC/WG.6/12/VEN/1/Corr.1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/VEN/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/VEN/3).

640. At its 40th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see section C below).

641. The outcome of the review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/12), the views of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/12/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

642. The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela recalled the significant impact that its first review had had at the national level, as evidenced by the participation in the preparation of the universal periodic review of thousands of citizens, hundreds of social organizations and an array of public institutions from the five branches of Government.

643. The completion of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's first review entailed the opening of a new cycle which, for a society committed to social justice, enhancing democracy and the comprehensive realization of human rights, was considered a possibility to further develop the political and institutional mechanisms provided for in the Constitution to ensure the universal enjoyment of human rights.

644. The universal periodic review of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in particular the interactive dialogue in October 2011, was an opportunity to highlight the revolution that the Venezuelan society had had to carry out in order to become a true, tangible, stable and lasting democracy; this, in spite of being regularly at the centre of international geopolitical events in recent years, especially since the outbreak of the foolish interventionist surge called the "war on terror" that had been replaced, on behalf of human rights, by the latest military marketing product called the "responsibility to protect".

645. The Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, public authorities, social and grass-roots organizations and the people had not squandered one second over the past 13 years in developing its agenda of political, economic, social and cultural democratization, notwithstanding the immense external pressures on it. The Venezuelan people had realized that, perhaps, this was the price to pay to build a true democracy, to the extent that it contradicted the interests of transnational capital.

646. As the Vice-President of the Council of Ministers and the Minister for Foreign Affairs had stated during the review, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had passed in this period from an authoritarian and oligarchic State to a democratic and popular one, the transformation of which, still ongoing, was accelerating and getting deeper over time.

647. Only under a Government of this nature, under a social rule of law and justice as established by the Constitution, had it been possible to achieve such impressive progress in the implementation of human rights, as shown in the report of the Working Group. The delegation reiterated that the maxim of Simon Bolivar, "Justice is the queen of republican virtues, and equality and freedom are supported by it", had guided the actions of the Government and its national human rights strategy.

648. By accepting the vast majority of recommendations made during the interactive dialogue (80 per cent of which were already being implemented), and by making numerous voluntary commitments, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had made significant

progress in complying with its universal human rights obligations and demonstrated its will to further develop cooperation with United Nations agencies and OHCHR.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

649. Cuba highlighted the progress made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the implementation of public policies designed to eliminate inherited poverty, and highlighted the achievement of the first Millennium Development Goal on the eradication of poverty and hunger. Cuba also noted the progress made in other areas, such as access to drinking water and sanitation, the social inclusion of vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples, gender policies, combating racial discrimination, reducing unemployment and the launching of programmes to ensure adequate housing. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had implemented programmes and models designed to address the structural problems of inequality, social exclusion and discrimination, thus making it possible for its people to build freely its economic, political and social future.

650. Nicaragua commended the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the social transformation it had advanced to overcome the inequalities from the past. It praised the country's social model, which had allowed the strengthening of its system for the promotion and protection of human rights. Nicaragua reiterated its commitment to continue to work with the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the construction of a more just international order, to ensure that human rights became a reality.

651. Viet Nam commended the efforts and achievements made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, particularly in the areas of economic development, social equity and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had acted in good faith during and after the review process, and many recommendations had enjoyed its support. Viet Nam encouraged the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to continue to play an active role in the work of the Human Rights Council and to contribute to the promotion of dialogue, mutual respect and cooperation.

652. China appreciated the constructive spirit demonstrated by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela during the universal periodic review process. It highlighted the initiatives taken by the State in the areas of economic and social development and the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. China also welcomed the efforts made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to protect the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women and children. China understood that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was a developing country and therefore faced specific challenges, but believed that, with the relentless efforts of the Government and the people, and the economic and social policies implemented, this would translate into further achievements.

653. Uruguay highlighted a number of recommendations that had enjoyed the support of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in particular its commitment to adhere to various international human rights instruments. It also referred to a recommendation to strengthen the national system to combat all practices of racial discrimination in accordance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had supported a recommendation to continue to facilitate and strengthen the work of non-governmental organizations and other civil society actors. Uruguay indicated that, on the basis of its own national experience, it considered that working in cooperation with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council could contribute to the improvement of human rights at the local level.

654. Algeria highlighted the commitment of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the promotion and protection of human rights, as had been reflected by its acceptance of most of the recommendations. Algeria was particularly pleased to see that the State had accepted

its three recommendations concerning accession to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, improving conditions for business and also the right to housing. It also congratulated the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on its commitment to the promotion of economic and social rights, as seen recently during negotiations of the draft labour law.

655. The Dominican Republic stated that the universal periodic review had shown the commitment of the Government to the observance of human rights in its country. It commended the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its spirit of solidarity and cooperation, without conditions, that it provided to other peoples of the region by undertaking successful programmes in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights. The Dominican Republic encouraged it to continue to strengthen its social policies in favour of those in need.

656. The Islamic Republic of Iran pointed out that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had actively participated in the universal periodic review process, demonstrating its commitment to the work of the Human Rights Council. It made reference to a number of recommendations that had been accepted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and expressed its confidence that they would be fully implemented in good faith. It commended the efforts that had been made by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to raise the living standards of its people and to remove social inequality.

657. Ecuador highlighted the important results achieved by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as part of its efforts to combat poverty, exclusion and marginalization, as seen in the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Ecuador commended its efforts in the areas of access to health services by the majority of the population, gender equality, the attention to children and other vulnerable sectors of the population, economic and social development, and the establishment of a process of intercultural and multilingual education. Ecuador supported the initiatives for the integration of nations of the region and recognized the leading role that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela played in them.

658. The Syrian Arab Republic highlighted the positive attitude of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the universal periodic review and the transparency of its national report. It expressed appreciation for the State's commitment to put into effect the recommendations made by it. It noted the State's commitment to the international instruments to which it was a party, and encouraged it to continue its efforts to maintain its national sovereignty and territorial integrity and to safeguard the rights of its people. The Syrian Arab Republic welcomed the positive measures taken with all stakeholders in the field of human rights, in particular in education, health and the fight against poverty. It applauded the initiatives undertaken by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to ensure social justice despite the challenges it faced. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was moving along the right path to strengthening human rights, and it was encouraged to step up those efforts.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

659. The Ombudsman's Office (Defensoría del Pueblo), accredited with "A" status, acknowledged the Government's efforts in the area of human rights, including policies for the progressive realization of the rights to health, food, water, land, culture and the protection of vulnerable groups. It noted the recent policy to combat violence through the control of firearms, and recommended that efforts for a comprehensive strategy on social violence should be continued. It requested the Government to continue to strengthen its penitentiary policies with a view to overcoming the vulnerability of persons deprived of their liberty.

660. The Indian Council of South America congratulated the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for its support in heating indigenous homes in North America affected by the high cost of fuel. It highlighted and supported the recommendations regarding the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants, as well as those regarding the promotion of solidarity, the development of peace and an equitable international order made by Cuba. It called on the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

661. The Federation of Cuban Women highlighted the Government's commitment to strengthening legal framework for the equality of men and women. It recognized that the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was one of the most progressive on the issue of gender. It also noted the creation of various institutions in the country to address this issue. It observed that a UNDP report noted the priority given by the State to comprehensive support for pregnant women. The existence of such new forms of social organizations as community councils was also acknowledged.

662. The World Federation of Trade Unions was in close contact with workers and trade unions in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and recognized the realization of important economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, such as the fight against exclusion and inequality, illiteracy and child malnutrition, as well as the provision of free health services to all. It highlighted the fact that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had lowered unemployment while its minimum wage was one of the highest in the region. It also commended the policies introduced to aid the most vulnerable sectors of society.

663. Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas welcomed the strategy adopted by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to put human beings at the centre of its social policies, in such fields as health, education, nutrition and social protection. It stated that UNESCO had recognized the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as a territory free of illiteracy. It also underscored the high level of social participation through various bodies. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was a true democracy; the Bolivarian revolution had resulted not only in material gains for the population but also served to lift their self-esteem.

664. Nord-Sud XXI highlighted the State's exemplary record in poverty reduction and progress in the rights to health and education, and the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples. These achievements were good practices that could assist other countries. It noted the support for the right to development and encouraged the State to examine how to enhance the participation of all people in its political processes in a manner that built on basic expression and participation rights, and the responsibilities inherent to these rights.

665. The International Volunteerism Organization for Women; Education and Development, as part of a coalition, expressed its concern with regard to the situation of the Yanomami indigenous people, and recommended that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela guarantee basic services to indigenous peoples, and in particular to the Yanomami; continue efforts to ensure that indigenous children in remote zones are registered; and continue health reforms, in particular to address child malnutrition and child mortality.

666. The World Alliance for Citizen Participation-CIVICUS noted the rejection of the repeated requests by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention to free Judge Afiuni. Areas that required urgent attention included the extremely high rate of violence; the systematic criminalization of trade union protests, and impunity for the killings of trade union activists; threats and restrictions of the rights of indigenous peoples, persons in need of international protection and LGBT persons; and the formulation of a national plan of action for human rights.

667. Human Rights Watch noted that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had rejected recommendations on the independence of the judiciary, and that the Supreme Court had

refused to recognize the rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. It also noted the arbitrary detention of Judge Afiuni since 2009. The Government had undermined the right to free speech as well as the ability of human rights defenders to work independently. It called on the Government to enforce more carefully its international legal obligations in all these areas.

668. Instituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice highlighted the inequalities in the enjoyment of the right to education affecting the Yanomami indigenous people, noting that 90 per cent of the Yanomami school-age population had no access to education services, and that the remaining 10 per cent had access to primary education only. It added that there was a lack of multicultural and intercultural education. It recommended that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela continue its efforts to guarantee universal education and that it provide school structures, teachers and adequate teaching materials to ensure quality education to indigenous children.

669. Article 19, International Centre against Censorship was concerned at the rejection by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela of recommendations on freedom of expression, and indicated that the situation could worsen in 2012. It noted the existence of 40 cases of attacks on journalists or limitations of their rights. It reiterated its recommendations that the authorities promptly and adequately investigate attacks on the press and journalists, and condemn explicitly such attacks, and that legislation decriminalize contempt and slander.

670. The Association for the Prevention of Torture welcomed the State's acceptance of the recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. The prisons in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela were characterized by high rates of violence, which had resulted in an alarming number of deaths in recent years. The Association was also concerned at reports that non-governmental organizations had been denied access to places of detention and been publicly threatened. It called on the State to promptly ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and to create an effective national preventive mechanism.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

671. The delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela acknowledged those who, with their remarks, had confirmed once again that the universal periodic review was the main instrument of the Human Rights Council for the promotion and protection of human rights through dialogue and cooperation.

672. The delegation reaffirmed the Government's determination to implement the 97 recommendations accepted and its voluntary commitments, a process that had already started on 7 October 2011, as soon as its review had ended.

673. The delegation reminded the Human Rights Council that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had rejected only those recommendations the implementation of which would have been in violation of its Constitution or were based on false assumptions, or simply were so far from Venezuelan reality that it made no sense to implement them. A detailed explanation of these issues could be found in the addendum to the report of the Working Group.

Iceland

674. The review of Iceland was held on 10 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Iceland in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ISL/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ISL/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ISL/3).

675. At its 40th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Iceland (see section C below).

676. The outcome of the review of Iceland comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/13), the views of Iceland concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/13/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

677. The delegation stated that it was a great honour to address the Human Rights Council on the adoption of the report on Iceland's first universal periodic review, and a privilege to engage in an open and encouraging dialogue on the promotion and protection of human rights.

678. The first cycle of the universal periodic review had proven that the mechanism could be a valuable tool to further enhance the protection of human rights. As the Minister for the Interior of Iceland, Ögmundur Jónasson, had stated during the presentation of the State's report in October 2011, the process was an opportunity for States to support each other to reflect and to increase the focus on the national application of human rights obligations. The experience gained and lessons learned in the first cycle of the universal periodic review had shown promise for the second cycle.

679. The universal periodic review was a valuable instrument for the Government of Iceland, as it reviewed the legal and practical implementation of human rights instruments in a systematic manner with a view to reporting at both the international and national levels. This work was valuable for further national dialogue on how Iceland, as a society, could best ensure human rights at every level. On behalf of the Government of Iceland, the delegation extended its gratitude to States for the constructive criticism, encouragement, advice and recommendations received.

680. During its universal periodic review, Iceland had received 84 recommendations, which focused on equality and non-discrimination, racism and intolerance, gender pay gaps, violence against women and children, improvements in the prison system, international human rights obligations and improvements to the structural mechanism for the protection of human rights. Many of the recommendations addressed challenging areas where the Government of Iceland recognized the need for further action which, in some instances, were consistent with ongoing legislative reform.

681. On International Human Rights Day, in December 2011, the Ministry of the Interior had hosted a public event during which the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review was presented; an open dialogue with civil society and the public regarding the position of the Government on the recommendations in the report had ensued. Following this public consultation, the report was posted on the website of the Ministry of the Interior for further examination and comments.

682. The delegation stated that, as evident from the addendum to the report of the Working Group, the Government of Iceland had accepted some recommendations, converted some recommendations into voluntary commitments, and reflected those

recommendations that had already been implemented or were being implemented, as well as those recommendations that would undergo in-depth examination before Iceland's next review. Three recommendations had not been accepted, the first of which concerned the withdrawal of its reservations to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The reasons underlying those reservations remained applicable.

683. The other two recommendations encouraged legal definitions that were different from those in Icelandic legislation. With regard to "discrimination", the legal definition in Icelandic legislation was in line with Iceland's obligations under the agreement on the European Economic Area. Extensive preparatory legislative work was ongoing, aimed at enacting comprehensive equal treatment legislation further in line with legal initiatives on equality protection in Europe. The delegation emphasized that non-discrimination was a vital aspect of human rights protection in Iceland, and efforts would continue to ensure non-discrimination in Iceland.

684. With regard to torture, the current legislation prohibited torture as a form of inhuman treatment as described in the Constitution of Iceland. Any legislative change could undermine the main principle on the strict protection of freedom that was firmly enacted in Icelandic law and legal practice.

685. The delegation stated that recommendations had been made on issues regarding violence against women and domestic violence, relating in particular to structural aspects in society, such as a lack of effort to increase awareness and to better enable victims of violence to find their way to and through the legal system. These recommendations were a valuable encouragement for the strong emphasis that the Government of Iceland had put on ending violence against women and domestic violence, which included a new plan of action.

686. The delegation referred to the recommendations on the protection of children from sexual abuse, and stated that the establishment of Barnahús, a child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multi-agency centre where different professionals worked under one roof in the investigation of child sexual abuse cases, had had a positive impact on the protection of children and was an example that other European countries had looked to when investigating and processing cases of sexual violence against children. Nevertheless, the prevention of sexual abuse against children needed to be strengthened. To that end, the Government of Iceland had presented a legislative amendment to the General Penal Code in order to ratify the Lanzarote Convention of the Council of Europe and allocated financial resources for a prevention and awareness-raising campaign.

687. The delegation emphasized that, under the General Penal Code, all children under the age of 18 were effectively protected from sexual exploitation. Individuals from the age of 15 were permitted to engage in consensual sexual intercourse. This did not diminish their legal protection from sexual exploitation or sexual violence, as there was a clear difference between sexual relations and sexual violence or exploitation. The Government of Iceland was of the view that the criminalization of sexual relations between teenagers would not be useful in ending violence against children.

688. The delegation stated that the Government had put emphasis on protecting the welfare system during the challenging economic times arising from the financial crisis in 2008. It stated, that by way of an example, a consultation group consisting of relevant stakeholders had been established to monitor the situation and to make recommendations to the Government. The economic turbulence had triggered a lively and substantial social debate on the concept and implementation of human rights, and the positive obligations of the Government in protecting and ensuring those rights. The universal periodic review had given valuable input in that discussion.

689. It was vital that the outcome of the universal periodic review translate into concrete action at the national level. This would take considerable effort and clear political will on the part of the Government, in close cooperation with civil society and academia. Extensive work had commenced with the preparation of a national plan of action, and included a series of monthly meetings to encourage an open dialogue on the protection of human rights.

690. The national plan of action would include a process to follow up on universal periodic review recommendations and outcomes from the treaty bodies. Equally important was the work being undertaken to rethink the structural aspects of human rights protection, which specifically took into account international encouragement to establish a human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

691. The delegation expressed its gratitude to OHCHR for its invaluable support in the universal periodic review process, the troika for its cooperation throughout the process, and the Vice President for his leadership.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

692. Algeria noted with satisfaction that Iceland had accepted most of the recommendations received, and took note of its positive approach to converting a number of recommendations into voluntary commitments. It expressed its appreciation for the fact that three of the four recommendations that it had made enjoyed the support of Iceland. It welcomed the adoption of the Strategy for Iceland's Development Cooperation 2011–2014, which made provision for development assistance programmes. Algeria also took positive note of the readiness of Iceland to consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

693. The Republic of Moldova expressed its appreciation to Iceland for having accepted the six recommendations that it had made during Iceland's review. It welcomed Iceland's commitment to establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, and was pleased to note that Iceland had taken measures to eliminate stereotypical attitudes about the roles and responsibilities of women and men. The Republic of Moldova noted, with satisfaction, the steps taken to strengthen efforts to increase the number of women in high-ranking positions, particularly in academia, and welcomed the use of temporary special measures to encourage the achievement of substantive equality between men and women, particularly in the private employment sector. It applauded Iceland's commitment to eliminate the obstacles faced by women victims of domestic and sexual violence when filing complaints and seeking protection, and was pleased to note that the State had increased efforts to prevent trafficking in human beings for sexual exploitation, including child prostitution.

694. The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed concern at the absence of an authority to monitor violence and sexual abuse against children, rising incidents of racism and xenophobia, prison conditions, gender-based violence, and lenient sentences in cases of domestic violence. It recommended the strengthening of efforts in combating racism and xenophobia; the adoption of anti-discrimination legislation; strengthening the protection framework for the rights of the child; and the introduction of more effective measures addressing domestic violence.

695. Austria commended Iceland for its constructive participation in the universal periodic review process, which Austria was able to witness as a member of the troika. It also expressed its appreciation to Iceland for the large number of recommendations accepted and welcomed the fact that Iceland had made voluntary commitments regarding

the implementation of the recommendations. It looked forward to the implementation of the voluntary commitments.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

696. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit (COC Netherlands) and the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association (ILGA-Europe) recognized Iceland's adoption of a neutral definition of marriage, thereby granting the same legal status for heterosexual and same-sex married couples. Iceland had taken important steps to improve the legal status of transgender people, and efforts had been made to simplify name and gender recognition. COC Netherlands and ILGA-Europe sought clarification on the time frame envisaged for the introduction and implementation of the necessary legislation. They also requested information on the steps planned to advance non-discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. They encouraged Iceland to share its best practices with other countries in combating discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity. They also urged Iceland to consider applying the Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity as a guide for policy developments.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

697. The delegation, on behalf of the Government of Iceland, thanked the speakers for their views and comments, which would be recorded as part of Iceland's first universal periodic review. It reiterated that the review was an important opportunity for the Government to reflect on the human rights situation in Iceland and an important reminder that more could be achieved in the areas of human rights, equality and opportunity.

698. While Iceland was proud of the progress already made, it saw the universal periodic review as an opportunity to improve. Preparing for Iceland's first review had provided the opportunity to reflect upon how best to protect and promote human rights, for which the delegation conveyed the appreciation of the Government of Iceland.

699. The delegation concluded its statement by thanking those who had participated in Iceland's first review. It hoped that the responses provided had demonstrated Iceland's ongoing commitment to multilateral engagement, human rights and the rule of law.

Zimbabwe

700. The review of Zimbabwe was held on 10 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Zimbabwe in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ZWE/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ZWE/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ZWE/3).

701. At its 40th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Zimbabwe (see section C below).

702. The outcome of the review of Zimbabwe comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/14), the views of Zimbabwe concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented

before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group.

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

703. Zimbabwe recalled that a total of 177 recommendations had been made. Of the 177 recommendations, it had accepted 81, 65 did not receive its support and it undertook to consider 31 and provide responses thereto prior to or during the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council.

704. Zimbabwe had had the opportunity to examine the recommendations and was pleased to report that, of the 65 recommendations that had not received its support, a total of 20 had been accepted, leaving the number of those that did not receive its support at 45. The recommendations that had not enjoyed the support of Zimbabwe but were subsequently accepted related to the Human Rights Commission, the criminalization of torture, the submission of periodic reports to treaty bodies, cooperation with the United Nations special procedures, the prevention of politically motivated violence and intimidation, the monitoring of places of detention, the ratification of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as equality between men and women, including parents and property rights.

705. Zimbabwe had also had the opportunity to examine 31 recommendations, which it had undertaken to consider and to provide responses. It was pleased to report that all the recommendations were then accepted except two.

706. The first recommendation that did not enjoy the support of Zimbabwe was to set a higher age of criminal responsibility for children and to take all necessary measures to establish a specialized juvenile justice system, where children were treated in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child. Zimbabwe explained that the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act provided that children under the age of 7 lacked criminal capacity and should not be tried or convicted of any crime, while children between the ages of 7 and 14 were presumed to lack the capacity to form the intention to commit a crime. This recommendation did not enjoy the support of Zimbabwe because children under the age of 12 were committing such serious offences as rape. Nevertheless, Zimbabwe had in place a pretrial diversion programme for juvenile offenders and the victim-friendly court system. These ensured that the principle of the best interests of the child was observed. A legal assistance programme to provide children with all forms of legal assistance was in the process of being formulated. Moreover, the courts, when adjudicating on cases involving juveniles, took into account the fact that the principle of the best interests of the child was paramount.

707. The second recommendation that did not enjoy the support of Zimbabwe was to amend expeditiously the Births and Deaths Registration Act to ensure that all children born in Zimbabwe, regardless of their parents' origin, were issued with birth certificates. Zimbabwe pointed out that there was no need to amend the Act as it sufficiently provided for the registration of the birth of every child born in Zimbabwe. Each child was issued with an appropriate birth certificate in accordance with his or her status.

708. Zimbabwe was fully committed to honouring its obligations with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights. Zimbabwe then confirmed that it was in line with that commitment that the accepted recommendations would be implemented.

709. Zimbabwe pointed out that recommendation 94.3 had been omitted in the addendum to the report of the Working Group. It did not support that recommendation.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

710. Cuba noted that the independence of Zimbabwe in 1980 was born from a lengthy struggle for democracy, justice, political freedom and self-determination. Since then, Zimbabwe had worked for the rights of its citizens. Zimbabwe's efforts had been restricted by unfair sanctions, causing the problems that the country now faced. Cuba welcomed the acceptance of its recommendations that Zimbabwe should continue to combat attempted foreign interference in domestic matters and to exercise its sovereignty and self-determination; and that it continue positive action and programmes to guarantee quality health and education services, and reduce poverty.

711. Angola welcomed many reforms undertaken by Zimbabwe, particularly the creation of a national human rights commission, a charter of enforceable rights, and legislation to promote and protect human rights in the areas of education, work, health and the commitment to the national process to draft a new Constitution. Despite the illegal economic sanctions imposed on the country, Zimbabwe had launched several development strategies and policies, which had had an impact on the population. Angola made an appeal to the international community to lift unilateral sanctions and to support Zimbabwe in its efforts for reforms and economic recovery.

712. China noted with appreciation Zimbabwe's investments in health and education. Zimbabwe had made significant progress in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, in increasing the rate of literacy, combating poverty, improving social security and eliminating discrimination against vulnerable groups. China fully understood the difficulties and challenges that Zimbabwe faced as a developing country in socioeconomic development and in the protection of human rights. China added that the sanctions imposed by certain countries had put a break on economic development, and called for them to be lifted.

713. Algeria stated that Zimbabwe and Algeria were linked through fraternity and solidarity on a historic basis, and noted Zimbabwe's determination to emancipate itself. It noted Zimbabwe's acceptance of a large number of recommendations, to which some others were added after they had initially been rejected. It noted with satisfaction the acceptance of recommendations made by Algeria with regard to continuing the process of national reconciliation, strengthening the representation of women in decision-making processes, and continued positive efforts to reduce the HIV/AIDS mortality rate.

714. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea noted that, despite the economic challenges arising out of illegally imposed sanctions, Zimbabwe remained committed to promoting and protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms of its people, as enshrined in its Constitution and international conventions, and to participating actively in international human rights forums. It highly appreciated the positive steps taken by the Government to build a united, strong, democratic and prosperous nation with a high quality of life for all by 2020. Zimbabwe's commitments and positive efforts to promote and protect human rights were appreciated.

715. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted Zimbabwe's efforts in the area of social rights, particularly in the field of health, education and assistance to the elderly, where the Government was promoting the programme to assist the neediest elderly persons, providing monthly pensions, and exonerating them from payments for medical services in State institutions. It also noted Zimbabwe's important efforts to promote and protect human rights, despite the major economic difficulties caused by illegal sanctions imposed by developed countries.

716. Morocco noted with satisfaction the measures taken for the protection and promotion of human rights, and encouraged Zimbabwe to continue along that path. Morocco was pleased that the six recommendations it made had been accepted, and wished

Zimbabwe success in their implementation. Morocco encouraged Zimbabwe to continue with its decision to draw up a national human rights plan of action on the implementation of accepted recommendations in partnership with stakeholders, who would assist the Government to comply with its human rights obligations.

717. South Africa commended Zimbabwe for all its efforts aimed at attaining the Millennium Development Goals in the education and health sectors, and underscored the need to lift crippling sanctions and to provide technical assistance and capacity-building through various means. It acknowledged the role of the Parliament's Thematic Committee on Human Rights and of the Zimbabwean Commission on Human Rights. It encouraged Zimbabwe to continue its efforts to strengthen these institutions, its programmes aimed at poverty eradication, to end gender discrimination, as well as its integrated child protection strategies. It wished Zimbabwe well in its constitutional review process and with the implementation of the recommendations accepted.

718. The United States of America welcomed Zimbabwe's decision to adopt the recommendation on operationalizing the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission. It remained deeply concerned about the ongoing lack of human rights protection in Zimbabwe. It strongly urged the Government to reconsider many of the recommendations that it had declined to support, including to implement fully the Global Political Agreement, to repeal or amend the restrictive Public Order and Security Act and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; to invite the Special Rapporteur on torture and other mandate holders; and to create stronger mechanisms to ensure greater revenue transparency from diamond mining, to demilitarize the diamond industry and thoroughly investigate cases of beatings and abuse by Government and private security services in the Marange area. It urged Zimbabwe to reconsider its decision not to support the recommendation to investigate all credible allegations relating to the presidential elections of 2008. This was considered important to prevent a recurrence of political violence during the next round of elections.

719. Belarus stated that the universal periodic review made it possible to evaluate Zimbabwe's successes in implementing economic, social and cultural rights and improving its national legislation. Belarus noted with satisfaction Zimbabwe's efforts to reduce poverty, to combat various different pandemics, to ensure universal national education and also to combat trafficking. It shared Zimbabwe's concern with regard to the destructive influence on the enjoyment of human rights of unilateral coercive measures adopted by certain Western countries against the people of Zimbabwe. Such measures should be immediately and irrevocably revoked because they were being applied illegally, in violation of international law.

720. Chad noted with satisfaction that Zimbabwe had accepted a large number of recommendations, including the recommendations made by Chad. Given the fact that Zimbabwe had accepted a good number of recommendations, the international community should provide it with the necessary financial and technical assistance so that it could benefit from the experience of others and also be able to address the challenges that it faces in the area of human rights.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

721. CIVICUS welcomed Zimbabwe's decision to accept most recommendations and its commitment to engage civil society in its follow-up to the universal periodic review. CIVICUS was concerned that Zimbabwe had rejected recommendations relating to the reform of laws that curtailed civil liberties and freedoms and the need to address impunity, including for investigation of the 2008 electoral violence and bringing to account all perpetrators. Additionally, the Government should address the ongoing harassment of human rights defenders. CIVICUS called upon the Human Rights Council to urge

Zimbabwe to adopt all necessary measures to address those issues in order to ensure that the upcoming elections were free, fair and credible.

722. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit (COC Nederland) and Action Canada for Population and Development, in a joint statement, stated that the Sexual Rights Initiative, a coalition of organizations, was deeply concerned about the outright rejection of the constitutional protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex persons. They encouraged Zimbabwe to cease any State-sponsored or State-condoned attacks on the lives of persons based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and to ensure that all such attacks were investigated, and that those affected had access to justice.

723. Human Rights Watch regretted that Zimbabwe had rejected recommendations on ensuring the rule of law and respect for human rights, ending impunity, putting an end to all forms of intimidation, harassment, arbitrary arrest and detention and torture against all persons, particularly human rights defenders, political activists and journalists; reform of the security sector; ensuring independence of the judiciary; and repealing or amending repressive laws. It also regretted that Zimbabwe had rejected crucial recommendations to investigate allegations of violations, and made particular reference to reported abuses in the 2002, 2005 and 2008 elections and under the violent land reform programme.

724. The International Commission of Jurists stated that, two years after the signing of the Global Political Agreement, human rights remained largely unprotected owing to a lack of respect for the rule of law and the regular abuse of power by police, army and other government officials. It urged Zimbabwe to halt the repression of legitimate activities by lawyers, journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents; to ratify the Rome Statute; and to undertake effective legal and judicial reforms necessary for independent and effective investigation and prosecution of gross human rights violations.

725. United Nations Watch profoundly regretted that the people of Zimbabwe had continued to face many of the same violations of their basic human rights as in 2005. The Government continued to deny its citizens the minimal guarantees of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It questioned information contained in the national report according to which the Government had provided independent institutions with legislation and policy frameworks aimed at protecting and promoting the human rights of its people; that the ratification of the Convention against Torture was under active consideration; and that Zimbabwean laws limiting basic civil liberties were fair and constitutional mechanisms to regulate the conduct of meetings in a democratic State.

726. Save the Children International called on Zimbabwe to ensure timely and appropriate support for child victims of abuse, to strengthen coordination mechanisms in responding to child abuse cases and to conduct prevention programmes through the Zimbabwe Republic Police. Concerning the issuance of birth certificates, it called on Zimbabwe to amend legislation and to put an end to the problem of stateless children. With regard to improving the quality of education, it called on Zimbabwe to demonstrate its commitment through plans of action and budgetary allocations to reach the poorest and most vulnerable children.

727. The Marist International Solidarity Foundation ONLUS and Franciscans International, in a joint statement, commented on the right to quality education for every child in Zimbabwe. While welcoming Zimbabwe's acceptance of recommendations, they were concerned about the limited scope of the school curriculum as a major cause for school dropout rates and that access to compulsory basic education was limited owing to the obligation to pay tuition fees and a development fee in many schools. They called on Zimbabwe to significantly increase its education budget.

728. Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik expressed its profound concern relating to the recommendations rejected by Zimbabwe. It encouraged Zimbabwe to ratify as soon as possible the Convention against Torture, to transpose the provisions therein into its national legislation, and to take immediate and tangible measures to stop the practice of torture. It called on Zimbabwe to ratify the Rome Statute and to implement a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing capital punishment.

729. Amnesty International welcomed Zimbabwe's acceptance of recommendations to ensure the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission was compliant with the Paris Principles. It was disappointed that Zimbabwe had rejected recommendations to review and amend the Public Order and Security Act. Allegedly, police routinely misused the Act to block meetings of critics of ZANU-PF, and repressive legislation was used to criminalize the rights to freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly. It was dismayed that Zimbabwe had rejected the recommendation to investigate reports of human rights violations relating to the presidential elections held in 2008, when at least 200 people were killed and around 10,000 were injured, most of whom were supporters of the former opposition parties.

730. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme welcomed the creation of a human rights commission and the national policies to promote gender equality and to combat domestic violence. Main perpetrators of the violence during the 2008 elections, however, still enjoyed impunity. It encouraged Zimbabwe to prepare conditions so that the upcoming elections would be conducted in a calm, transparent and free climate. It was also concerned at how the press exercised its activities, and encouraged Zimbabwe to improve the situation to guarantee freedom of expression and to promote plurality in the media.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

731. Zimbabwe thanked Member States for their statements. It responded to the statement made by the United States of America. Zimbabwe posed no threat to the interests of the United States, be they political, military, economic or otherwise. The United States of America was a powerful State and the sole super-Power; the delegation therefore did not understand why it continued to mischaracterize and misrepresent the human rights situation in Zimbabwe and to target a small peace-loving country like Zimbabwe with economic sanctions, and also by continuing to undermine its internal processes. Zimbabwe's crime, if a crime it was, was its desire to be in charge of its destiny, to determine its destiny, to have control over its resources and to pursue an independent foreign policy in defence of its interests. It underscored the fact that the Global Political Agreement was an internal document and its implementation was the responsibility of the three political parties that were signatories to it. With regard to the Public Order and Security Act, Zimbabwe wanted it to be known that the current Act was the outcome of negotiations among the three political parties, signatories to the Global Political Agreement and was, in effect, copied from South African security legislation. The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act was similarly a product of inter-party negotiation. The delegation also did not understand the reference made by the United States to demilitarize the diamond industry. It recalled that the United States, as the current chair of the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme, had chaired the meeting that cleared Zimbabwe diamonds for sale internationally. The statement by the United States on the diamonds issue indicated that the left hand did not know what the right hand was doing.

732. Zimbabwe informed the Human Rights Council that a plan of action and a strategy for implementing accepted recommendations was being prepared in consultation with stakeholders, including civil society. Zimbabwe also underlined the continuous support of the United Nations family, in particular the technical and financial assistance provided by UNDP during its universal periodic review. UNDP had also made a commitment to assist

Zimbabwe in the preparation of the plan of action and the strategy for implementing the accepted recommendations.

733. Zimbabwe acknowledged the important role played by the community of non-governmental organizations in the launch of its report as well as in its subsequent validation. It hoped that those same organizations would work with the Government and other stakeholders in the implementation of the recommendations that had emerged from this process. Zimbabwe committed itself to working and cooperating fully with all non-governmental organizations that were genuinely pursuing the promotion and protection of human rights in the country and had not joined the bandwagon of the regime-change agenda. Zimbabwe lastly thanked all Member and observer States for their constructive engagement.

Lithuania

734. The review of Lithuania was held on 11 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Lithuania in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/LTU/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/LTU/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/LTU/3).

735. At its 41st meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Lithuania (see section C below).

736. The outcome of the review of Lithuania comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/15), the views of Lithuania concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/LTU/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

737. The head of the delegation of Lithuania expressed its appreciation for the valuable comments, questions and recommendations made by numerous States during the universal periodic review of Lithuania. Lithuania had received a total of 119 recommendations, and had accepted the majority of them.

738. The recommendations received covered a broad spectrum of issues. A number of recommendations addressed the need to strengthen the protection of persons belonging to vulnerable groups or persons in vulnerable situations. Notably, those were recommendations to strengthen the protection of persons belonging to groups defined by the criteria of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or age. A need for further legislative and policy measures was mentioned in this respect. The promotion of diversity, tolerance and harmony while fighting intolerance was the gist of these recommendations.

739. Another group of recommendations covered the issue of the need to strengthen the domestic institutional system for the protection of human rights by ensuring, inter alia, even closer cooperation with civil society on human rights-related issues. Certain recommendations indicated the need for specific actions by such domestic institutions to

ensure the monitoring and continuing implementation of various specific governmental policies and strategies.

740. Yet another group of recommendations encouraged Lithuania to assume further international obligations under human rights treaties, which would both advance the protection and promotion of human rights at the domestic level and add an additional element to a constructive dialogue with the treaty-monitoring bodies. Lithuania also referred to recommendations to strengthen support for international human rights defenders and activists.

741. Lithuania had made every effort to consider the recommendations received in an open-minded and constructive manner. Lithuania's position regarding the majority of the recommendations had been presented at the session of the Working Group. Lithuania's position regarding the remaining recommendations was presented in an addendum to the report (A/HRC/19/15/Add.1). With regard to recommendations that Lithuania was not able to support, the delegation noted that this was largely due to either limited resources or an ongoing debate on the way in which certain rights should be implemented in a specific context, particularly where competing human rights-based claims were identified. Nevertheless, Lithuania saw some of them as indications of possible ways of addressing certain human rights issues.

742. The delegation noted that the domestic discussion in connection with the preparation of Lithuania's report, the consideration of the recommendations received and the elaboration of related implementation plans had proved to be an effective trigger for the development of further legislation, policies and practices that would help it to advance in the protection and promotion of human rights.

743. The initial cycle of the universal periodic review was the start of a procedure that would be instrumental in consolidating the performance of all States in the field of their human rights obligations. On its part, Lithuania stressed that the universal periodic review process had highlighted certain common issues that may arise in different States in different forms, but essentially required the same solutions. The creation of effective national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles was one such issue. Lithuania would certainly draw inspiration from the experience of other States, as expressed in their comments and recommendations; their institutions were a valuable tool in the perpetual struggle for the full respect, protection and implementation of everyone's human rights.

744. Lithuania highly valued its cooperation with the United Nations human rights bodies and procedures. Specifically, it took the universal periodic review as an opportunity to learn from others and to reflect. The delegation reiterated its most favourable assessment of this form of cooperation within the United Nations and their readiness to both contribute to and benefit from this interaction with States Members of the United Nations.

745. To conclude, the delegation commended the members of the troika, namely the Congo, Norway and Qatar, charged with the task of managing the universal periodic review of Lithuania, and also the secretariat for its solid, competent and efficient performance.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

746. The Russian Federation welcomed Lithuania's support for three of its recommendations. It regretted, however, that the only recommendation that Lithuania did not support was its appeal to cease all attempts to revise the outcome of the Second World War and to glorify Nazi accomplices. It noted that Lithuania had supported another recommendation that condemned the opening of the streets of Vilnius to the annual neo-Nazis march. Every year, on Hitler's birthday, the tombs of Soviet soldiers and victims of the Holocaust were desecrated while followers display Nazi flags and symbols. The

Russian Federation called upon Lithuania to take measures to put an end to such manifestations of neo-Nazism, racism and xenophobia.

747. The Republic of Moldova commended Lithuania for its commitment to reinforce human rights education, for the measures aimed at improving mechanisms for human rights protection, for promoting gender equality, and for combating domestic violence against women and trafficking in human beings. It took note with satisfaction of the measures to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes regarding the role and responsibilities of women and men. The Republic of Moldova was pleased to note that Lithuania had supported all five of its recommendations, and acknowledged the steps taken to establish a coordinating human rights council, as a part of the Ombudsman institution, to ensure compliance with the Paris Principles.

748. Estonia noted that Lithuania had ratified the core international human rights treaties and fully cooperated with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. It was pleased to note that Lithuania had already implemented, or was in the process of implementing, most of the recommendations made during the review. The creation of a modern institutional system for human rights in such a short period as 20 years was a substantial achievement. Lithuania had also adopted new laws, and introduced a human rights culture in the country and a human rights-integrated approach into all its policies. Estonia noted that Lithuania had made specific achievements in promoting gender equality, combating violence against women and integrating persons with disabilities into society.

749. Algeria encouraged Lithuania to intensify its efforts to combat unemployment in the light of the economic crisis currently affecting Europe. Algeria was pleased to note that its recommendations on the reinforcement of the ombudsman on equal opportunities, on taking appropriate measures to ensure equality between men and women in the labour market, and on upgrading of the participation of women in public life had been supported by Lithuania. Algeria encouraged Lithuania to increase its efforts to improve prison conditions. Lastly, Algeria would have liked to see Lithuania support its recommendation on the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

750. The Islamic Republic of Iran remained concerned at the persistence of xenophobic acts and practices of racial segregation; of discrimination against the Roma community and racist violence and hate speech against non-European minorities; of the excessive use of force by law enforcement officials; and prison conditions, in particular overcrowding and the length of pretrial detention. Lithuania should implement policies and actions aimed at the effective integration of the Roma community, including employment, education, security, health, use of the Roma language, school attendance by Roma pupils and the regularization of identity documents.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

751. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland commended Lithuania for supporting recommendations to combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons, ensure full respect for freedom of expression and assembly for all, and prevent and prosecute all forms of violence and harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity. It was concerned at a proposed amendment to the Constitution defining the concept of family as based on heterosexual marriage, and recommended that Lithuania ensure equal rights between same-sex and opposite sex couples in its legislation, for example by introducing the possibility of partnership registration. It noted that the Law on the Protection of Minors from the Detrimental Effects of Public Information set out in itself a message that contributed to the stigma of and discrimination against LGBT persons.

752. Amnesty International welcomed Lithuania's support for recommendations to protect LGBT persons from discrimination, and to refrain from violating their right to freedom of expression and from criminalizing homosexual relations. It welcomed Lithuania's support for the recommendation to investigate the human rights implications of counter-terrorism measures, such as secret detention programmes, and urged the Government to cooperate fully with the European Parliament initiative investigating the alleged transportation and illegal detention of prisoners in European countries by the Central Intelligence Agency.

753. Action Canada for Population and Development, the Sexual Rights Initiative and the Family Planning and Sexual Health Association of Lithuania welcomed the Government's pledge to make a range of affordable contraceptives more widely available, and to improve awareness about family planning among women and men. They also welcomed the Government's support for the recommendation regarding the implementation of mandatory sex education in schools and urged the Government to consider integrating the UNESCO International Technical Guidance on Sexuality Education into a national programme.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

754. During its concluding remarks, Lithuania wished to clarify that the Lithuanian authorities never had nor would condone Nazism or its ideology.

755. As a democratic country based on the rule of law, Lithuania took steps to ensure that guaranteeing the fundamental principles of freedom of expression, freedom of information, freedom of assembly and freedom of association on the one hand, and applying all the necessary measures and relevant legislation to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination on the other, went hand in hand – systematically, promptly and vigorously, and in full compliance with international standards. In addition, every criminal act must be investigated and Lithuania would prosecute all those guilty of such acts.

756. Furthermore, Lithuania noted that, like many other States, it had developed and implemented its own educational programmes and projects aimed at promoting tolerance and combating racism, anti-Semitism and xenophobia.

757. Lithuania considered that the remarks on history made during the meeting went beyond established facts, and also beyond the aims and tasks of the universal periodic review process. Lithuania had never attempted to revise history and believed that an honest, thorough debate in other forums on history would facilitate reconciliation based on truth and remembrance.

758. Lithuania thanked the delegations for their comments, noting that the comments that fell within the purview of the Human Rights Council would be brought to the attention of relevant authorities, and would be taken into account while preparing the report at the second cycle.

759. Lithuania added that it had taken note of two recommendations (90.12 and 90.21) for which it was currently unable to provide a final response.

Uganda

760. The review of Uganda was held on 11 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Uganda in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/UGA/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/UGA/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/UGA/3).

761. At its 41st meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Uganda (see section C below).

762. The outcome of the review of Uganda comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/16), the views of Uganda concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/16/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

763. Uganda extended its appreciation to all member States and civil society organizations for their positive recommendations, to which it would pay utmost attention. During the universal periodic review, Uganda had received 171 recommendations. It had accepted 110, had not supported 19 and had deferred 42 for further consideration. Numerous consultative processes had been conducted on the 42 deferred recommendations, which culminated in a validation workshop held on 23 February 2012.

764. The 110 recommendations accepted were in accordance with the national priorities of Uganda, which was in the process of implementing the vast majority of them. Uganda was a signatory to all major international human rights instruments, and the rights contained therein were, for the most part, justiciable in its domestic courts.

765. Some recommendations contravened constitutional and other laws and had therefore been rejected. Nevertheless, Uganda would continue to review its position on all issues with a view to issuing an amendment as necessary.

766. Uganda recalled that the consultative processes held between 1989 and 2006 had not supported the recommendation regarding the abolition of the death penalty. The Supreme Court of Uganda had ruled however, that, after three years, a death sentence that had not been executed would be automatically commuted to life imprisonment, without remission. There has been no enforcement of this penalty since the turn of the century.

767. With regard to recommendations on ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, the Prohibition and Prevention of Torture bill of 2012 incorporated important provisions of the Convention. The bill was before the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, for further consultation. It imposed individual responsibility for perpetrators of acts of torture.

768. Uganda had accepted the recommendation that it should ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and pointed out its long-standing legal framework for affirmative action.

769. Uganda had accepted the recommendations on domestic relations, and informed the Human Rights Council that the Marriage and Divorce bill was before the relevant parliamentary committee for scrutiny. The bill dealt with marital rights and duties, cohabitation, separation and property rights.

770. Uganda sympathized with the recommendation on the issue of enforced disappearances, as it resonated with its past, and the period from 1970 to 1985 in particular. Uganda stated, however, that the issue did not apply to its national context. It would

nonetheless study the issue further with a view to providing a remedy where the situation arose and merited consideration.

771. Regarding recommendations on access to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, Uganda pointed out that the Convention had been ratified by only 42 States and its provisions were not entirely in conformity with the Constitution and laws of Uganda relating to the acquisition of nationality.

772. Uganda had accepted the recommendations that the Public Order Management bill should be brought into line with international human rights instruments, and that it had been withdrawn for further consultations.

773. Uganda had accepted the recommendation on aligning its policies to the African Union policy framework aimed at ensuring access to land and water for pastoralists, and referred to the ongoing cooperation between local districts and with Kenya.

774. Regarding the recommendation of issuing standing invitations to special procedures mandate holders, Uganda would continue to consider requests for country visits on a case-by-case basis. It reiterated that equal attention should be given to economic, social and cultural rights.

775. Regarding the proposed legislation on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons, Uganda had the position that it was a private member's bill, as provided for under its Constitution.

776. Uganda had accepted recommendations aimed at setting up mechanisms and taking measures to prevent the exploitation of children, in accordance with its commitments under ILO conventions.

777. Lastly, with regard to the recommendation that the State should increase health spending to 15 per cent of government budgetary allocation, Uganda subscribed to the Abuja Declaration and was working steadily towards the achievement of that target.

778. In conclusion, Uganda appreciated the opportunity afforded to share its best practices and to consider its challenges. It was proud of its achievements, and looked forward to the opportunity to present its midterm progress report. Uganda had made voluntary pledges and commitments, and reported that a standing interministerial committee had been established and was in the process of formulating a national plan of action and a road map.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

779. Cuba was pleased that Uganda had accepted the two recommendations that it had made on socioeconomic development, as well as with regard to the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and in establishing a health programme to treat a number of diseases. In spite of the unprecedented world economic crisis, Uganda has progressed in its socioeconomic development and increased the enjoyment of human rights of its people. Cuba was pleased with Uganda's development of infrastructure to achieve a better standard of living for its people.

780. Chad noted with satisfaction that, to prepare its national report, Uganda had engaged in dialogue with all stakeholders in a constructive spirit, which demonstrated the commitment of Uganda to the promotion and protection of human rights. Chad commended Uganda for having accepted most recommendations made during its review, including those made by Chad. It encouraged Uganda to request technical and financial assistance from the international community to implement the recommendations accepted.

781. Morocco was pleased with Uganda's excellent cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism. It encouraged Uganda to continue with its cooperation with international human rights bodies. It was pleased that Uganda had taken up the commitment to combat poverty, especially in rural areas. Uganda would need to effectively implement all of the programmes taken up in this regard. Morocco was pleased that Uganda had accepted 151 of the 170 recommendations made during the review, and that it had accepted the recommendation made by Morocco relating to education. It congratulated Uganda on its spirit of openness, which had taken the shape of a large number of voluntary commitments in its national report.

782. Botswana welcomed Uganda's decision to accept a significant number of recommendations. It commended Uganda for its openness to dialogue and constructive cooperation during the review, which demonstrated its commitment to improvement in its human rights records. Botswana noted and expressed its support for the progressive measures already being taken regarding both institution-building and legislative reform. Botswana was encouraged by the acceptance of recommendations aimed at guaranteeing the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, and at advancing the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. Botswana called on the international community to support Uganda.

783. UNICEF congratulated Uganda on its efforts to reduce poverty and to achieve equality in enrolment in primary school education, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals. It welcomed Uganda's decision to permit girls who fell pregnant during school term to sit their year-end examinations, and encouraged the creation of a policy on the re-entry of pregnant girls and child mothers into the school system. UNICEF called on Uganda to prioritize the approval of the draft Child Act. It urged Uganda to concentrate its efforts on ensuring the conditions for the Global Partnership for Education grant were met to aid the attainment of the Education for All goals.

784. Algeria noted with satisfaction the measures taken and efforts made by Uganda to improve living conditions and the enjoyment of human rights by all citizens. Algeria appreciated the acceptance of its recommendations relating to the implementation of the national development plan to reduce maternal mortality; to improving living conditions for persons with disabilities; to addressing the high cost of justice, especially in poor and rural areas; and to consolidating inter-ethnic harmony. Uganda faced various forms of constraints in the implementation of human rights, particularly in terms of human and financial resources. Algeria therefore called for adequate assistance to be given to Uganda.

785. Kenya noted the important measures that Uganda had taken to protect and promote human rights. Of particular interest was Uganda's ratification of core human rights instruments and the steps taken to enact them. Kenya also welcomed Uganda's strengthening of the human rights infrastructure, including the establishment and facilitation of an A-status human rights commission.

786. The United Republic of Tanzania applauded several policies and legal and administrative measures taken by Uganda relating to the human rights of women, children, youth and elderly persons. It was pleased to note the acceptance of its recommendation, as well as the voluntary commitments to mainstream human rights into all aspects of governance, and to include human rights in the education curriculum of schools. It noted such measures as the establishment of a cabinet subcommittee, and a desk to provide oversight and guidance, and to coordinate human rights issues at the national level. It urged the international community to assist Uganda.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

787. The Uganda Human Rights Commission commended Uganda for the consultative process that underpinned its universal periodic review. The Commission urged the State to implement the outcomes from the review and added that it was important to develop a national plan of action on human rights that would incorporate them. Some of the provisions of the anti-homosexuality bill were in violation of international human rights standards; instead of a new bill, existing legislation should be strengthened to address same-sex rape and abuse. It urged Uganda to hold accountable those alleged perpetrators from the now disbanded Rapid Response Unit in the Uganda Police Force, and to ensure that the police respected human rights during rallies.

788. Human Rights Watch welcomed the commitment to adopt a national human rights plan of action, to establish a human rights desk, and to mainstream rights training for security agencies. It urged Uganda to take concrete actions to address impunity and poor legislative proposals. It welcomed the acceptance of recommendations to investigate the use of excessive force and incidents of torture, and to prosecute and punish the perpetrators. Financial compensation is not a sufficient remedy. Human Rights Watch regretted that Uganda had categorically refuted the existence and use of “safe houses”. It urged Uganda to ensure respect for freedom of expression and assembly, and to withdraw its pending public order management bill, to invite the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and to take specific steps to ensure that the anti-homosexuality bill did not pass in Parliament.

789. The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network expressed its concern over Uganda’s rejection of some recommendations regarding LGBT persons. While accepting recommendations to prosecute attacks against LGBT persons, Uganda had rejected those recommendations that addressed the root causes of these violations. The Network requested information on the specific measures that Uganda intended to take to protect LGBT persons. It referred to the reintroduction of the anti-homosexuality bill in Parliament and to the shutting down of a workshop on the human rights of LGBT persons a week later by the Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity, and also requested information on how Uganda planned to respect the rights of sexual minorities.

790. The International Commission of Jurists emphasized that the unlawful use of lethal force against the peaceful exercise of rights and freedoms, together with the arbitrary arrest and harassment of political opponents and human rights defenders, continued to pose a threat to the rule of law and respect for human rights in Uganda. It urged Uganda to protect the legitimate exercise of freedoms of assembly, association and expression, to ensure that the anti-homosexuality bill was not adopted into law, to stop the use of military courts to try civilian suspects, to ensure compliance by security and prosecutorial officials with fair trial standards, and to end impunity for gross human rights violations.

791. The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and the International Federation for Human Rights commended Uganda for having established a cabinet subcommittee to provide policy oversight and guidance on human rights issues. They urged Uganda to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and to amend the Constitution to abolish the death penalty. They stated that Uganda was yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, and called for the incorporation into law of the 2010 Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Bill. They expressed their concern about freedom of speech and assembly, and the discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. They called on Uganda to reconsider its position on all the recommendations that it had rejected.

792. World Vision International and Franciscans International urged Uganda to improve the situation for newborn and child mortality rates. They emphasized the continuing

barriers to access to health care. Owing to corruption in the health sector, there was persistent theft of many drugs, the administration of expired drugs, abuse of patients and impunity of those involved. They strongly urged Uganda to accept the recommendations on raising the health budget, and called upon it to implement the existing health-related policy and legal framework for strengthening the health system.

793. Save the Children, on behalf of the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, commended Uganda for having established the policy, legislative and institutional frameworks for the implementation of child rights initiatives, but expressed its regret at the chronic underfunding for their implementation. It called on Uganda to allocate sufficient resources to maternal and child health, to put in place comprehensive and efficient measures for the prevention and combating economic exploitation of children, and to implement the universal periodic review recommendations on the rights of the child.

794. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme commended Uganda for the consultations with various actors of civil society in the universal periodic review process. It welcomed the efforts with regard to gender equality, and appreciated the recent laws passed to combat domestic violence. It remained concerned about reports of torture by security agencies, and that Uganda still had not incorporated the Convention against Torture into domestic law. It urged Uganda to provide human rights education to police and security forces, and to reform its penal code, which currently allows prosecutions and convictions motivated by sexual orientation. It urged the Government to revise its 2010 bill on press and journalists. It saluted the achievement of A status by the Uganda Human Rights Commission.

795. CIVICUS, HURINET-U and members of the civil society stakeholders' forum on the universal periodic review in Uganda stated that Uganda should reconsider its decision not to extend an invitation to the Special Rapporteurs on promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and on the right to peaceful assembly and association. Uganda should investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of human rights abuses during the riots of September 2009 and the Walk to Work demonstrations of 2011. They called on Uganda to ratify and enact the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Uganda should ensure that proposed legislation did not interfere with its international human rights obligations and, in this regard, should set up a committee to review and redraft current bills. Uganda should pass the torture bill into law and reconsider the recommendation to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

796. United Nations Watch welcomed the recommendations calling on Uganda to put an end to laws, policies and practices that were inconsistent with its international human rights obligations. It endorsed the call to refrain from enacting the proposed public order management bill, and to guarantee freedom of assembly. It supported calls to ease the heavy administrative burdens on non-governmental organizations, and to remove the Non-Governmental Organization Board from the supervision of security agencies. United Nations Watch joined the calls to reject the proposed anti-homosexuality bill.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

797. Uganda thanked all States for their constructive comments and views extended to the Government and delegation. It thanked, in particular, UNICEF, the Save the Children Organization and all the other civil society organizations for their participation, and took note of their recommendations and concerns. Uganda looked forward to their implementation and to the presentation of its midterm progress report.

Timor-Leste

798. The review of Timor-Leste was held on 12 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Timor-Leste in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TLS/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TLS/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/TLS/3 and A/HRC/WG.6/12/TLS/3/Corr.1).

799. At its 41st meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Timor-Leste (see section C below).

800. The outcome of the review of Timor-Leste comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/17), the views of Timor-Leste concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/17/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

801. During the interactive dialogue, Timor-Leste had accepted 88 of 125 recommendations received, and rejected 1. The decisions on 36 recommendations had been deferred and, after careful deliberation, the Council of Ministers had decided to accept most of them. Nonetheless, some recommendations had not been accepted. Timor-Leste also highlighted the fact that certain recommendations incorporated complex issues, and that Timor-Leste agreed to some parts, but not to others.

802. Timor-Leste had accepted all recommendations relating to the ratification of international human rights treaties. It had provided information on measures already taken to ensure such action and expressed the hope that the process for the ratification of these instruments could be finalized during the next legislative period.

803. Timor-Leste referred to recommendations 10, 11, 20 and 26 relating to the enactment or amendment of Timorese domestic laws. It informed the Human Rights Council that a bill on trafficking in persons has been submitted to the Council of Ministers, and that it would probably be submitted to Parliament at the beginning of the next legislative period. Timor-Leste also referred to the bill on the execution of penal sanctions, which sought to regulate, inter alia, the implementation of presidential pardons.

804. With regard to recommendations to empower the National Commission on Children's Rights to receive complaints, Timor-Leste explained that efforts to strengthen the protection of children's rights were focused on improving inter-agency coordination and the strategic implementation of multidisciplinary actions. This required the Commission to be incorporated into the executive structure of the Government, not separate from it. Timor-Leste recalled that it had a national human rights institute, namely, the Provedoria de Direitos Humanos e Justiça, empowered to deal with complaints, including those relating to children's rights.

805. Regarding the recommendation that it should repeal laws that discriminated against women, Timor-Leste recalled that the Constitution guaranteed equal rights and duties to women and men. No law was intended to discriminate on the basis of gender; existing

inequalities between women and men in Timor-Leste had not resulted from the application of laws.

806. Timor-Leste recalled that it was a party to several core human rights treaties, although it had only reported on two. Despite its enormous benefits, treaty reporting was quite a cumbersome exercise. Timor-Leste spoke of its ongoing efforts to meet its treaty reporting obligations, and that it had recently established a combined task force for treaty reporting under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It also welcomed current efforts to simplify the mechanisms for treaty reporting.

807. Timor-Leste noted that several recommendations concerned the extension of a standing invitation to special procedures. It highlighted the fact, that since 2002, it had received a number of mandate holders, and had appreciated their contribution to policy dialogue in the country. Nonetheless, coordination was needed between the receiving State and the special procedures in order for country missions to be effective. For Timor-Leste, coordination could be guaranteed by organizing country missions on an ad hoc and case-by-case basis.

808. Timor-Leste recalled that three recommendations related to measures on addressing past human rights violations, with specific reference to the follow-up to and implementation of the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship. Two recommendations made by the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation on justice had both been implemented.

809. Various policies and programmes had been set up to implement other recommendations made by the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation addressed to Timor-Leste.

810. Timor-Leste was working closely with the Government of Indonesia to implement the recommendations of the Commission of Truth and Friendship.

811. Timor-Leste was aware of the backlog of cases in the courts and the Prosecutor's Office. The entire justice system needed further strengthening, and measures had indeed been adopted to that end. Timor-Leste disagreed with claims that the backlog of cases had been caused by the salary levels of public prosecutors and public defenders, and did not see an increase in salary as a solution to the problem.

812. One recommendation had been made that the Government should strengthen its response to incidents of violence against members of religious minorities. Freedom of conscience, religion and worship was guaranteed in Timor-Leste. There had been incidents where problems such as those relating to claims of landownership had arisen in conflicts among members of communities who, in some cases, happened to profess a different faith. These incidents were merely criminal acts, and had been promptly investigated. Any attempt to depict such incidents as religious conflicts reflected a lack of knowledge of the real situation or a flagrant misrepresentation of facts.

813. On the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, Timor-Leste explained that, despite the lack of a specific plan for their implementation, programmes satisfying the objectives of the recommendations accepted could be found in the National Strategic Development Plan for 2011–2030 and in the annual plans of different ministries.

814. Timor-Leste concluded by thanking the President of the Human Rights Council for her leadership, and the Members and observer States of the Human Rights Council for their active participation. It also thanked the members of the troika for their support throughout the review process.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

815. Indonesia praised Timor-Leste for the number of recommendations accepted, including those that it had made. It also commended Timor-Leste for having ratified seven core human rights conventions in a short period of time. Indonesia stood ready to collaborate and move forward on the recommendations made by the Commission of Truth and Friendship. As a close neighbour, Indonesia expressed appreciation for the enhanced cooperation between the two countries. Furthermore, Indonesia believed that cooperation based on mutual respect and friendship would serve the interests shared in bringing mutual benefits for the peoples of both countries.

816. Cuba noted the challenges faced by Timor-Leste deriving mainly from the unjust international economic order. It highlighted Timor-Leste's achievements in providing health services, in particular hospital services at the community level, and having established the national health institute to improve the training of nurses, midwives and laboratory technicians. It noted the efforts made to treat tuberculosis and malaria, and the recent reduction in child mortality. Cuba expressed its satisfaction at its modest contribution through the presence of Cuban medical personnel in Timor-Leste and Timorese students in Cuba. It congratulated Timor-Leste on having accepted so many recommendations.

817. Malaysia was pleased to note that, in spite of resource and capacity constraints, the Government had accepted a large number of recommendations, and was encouraged by the steps taken towards implementing many of them. In addition, it welcomed the various mechanisms put in place to guarantee the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, including those that focused on economic, social and cultural rights. Malaysia was encouraged by the Government's commitment to greater interaction with relevant international human rights mechanisms.

818. Viet Nam noted that Timor-Leste was a young nation facing many challenges and hardships on its way to development, and highlighted its efforts and achievements in protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms. It appreciated Timor-Leste's acceptance of many recommendations, including Viet Nam's recommendations on strengthening the rule of law and good governance, promoting rights to education and health care, and integrating further into regional and international human rights mechanisms.

819. Morocco stated that Timor-Leste's review had been an opportunity to appraise both the progress made and the difficulties faced in the area of human rights since its independence. It praised the Government for having pledged to ratify more international conventions as soon as the human resources and institutional capacity necessary were in place. Morocco thanked Timor-Leste for having accepted the recommendation it had made, and invited the Government to take advantage of the support of the Universal Periodic Review Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance to assist in the implementation of recommendations.

820. The Philippines congratulated Timor-Leste on its engagement with the universal periodic review, and noted that, as young democracy, Timor-Leste had shown resoluteness in upholding the rule of law. It highlighted Timor-Leste's ratification of seven human rights treaties and several optional protocols since 2003. The Philippines noted with satisfaction that Timor-Leste had favourably considered its recommendation on improving its legislature, taking into account international human rights obligations. It also considered Timor-Leste's efforts in building partnerships and exploring cooperation encouraging. It commended Timor-Leste for its measures to address the protection of women and children.

821. Monaco congratulated the Government for the acceptance of the recommendations accepted and for strengthening its institutions and programmes aimed at establishing rule of law. Monaco had encouraged some important Timorese initiatives, including the programme to support victims, the national plan for education 2011–2015 and the 2010 Act on the eradication of violence against women. It also welcomed the recent changes in national jurisprudence and the new Civil Code, which had established equality between men and women in all areas. It hoped that the Code on the adoption of children would be finalized soon.

822. The Lao People's Democratic Republic noted that Timor-Leste, as a young democracy, had accepted a large number of recommendations and had started taking the necessary steps for implementing them. It acknowledged the significant progress made in promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of Timorese citizens. It recognized that the Government had cooperated with United Nations human rights mechanisms and with the international community in the implementation of international and regional human rights instruments.

823. Thailand expressed its appreciation for the fact that Timor-Leste had accepted a large number of recommendations, including that made by Thailand. It noted that Timor-Leste had started to implement the recommendations received, and welcomed its ratification of human rights instruments. Thailand was convinced that the more Timor-Leste's commitments were converted into practice, the more benefits there would be for the Timorese people. It encouraged the international community to assist Timor-Leste and to respond positively to its requests for assistance. Thailand was ready to assist and share its experience and expertise.

824. Algeria noted with satisfaction the progress made by Timor-Leste in the fields of human rights, security, economic development and human development since 2005. It welcomed the fact that Timor-Leste had accepted the three recommendations made by Algeria. It had concurred with one of the conclusions of the national report, namely, that the fight for independence of the Timorese people, founded on the right to self-determination, was fundamentally a fight for human rights, and encouraged the Government to continue on that path.

825. Romania, as a member of the troika, thanked Timor-Leste for its full availability and cooperative spirit exhibited throughout the universal periodic review exercise and for having accepted a large number of recommendations. It encouraged Timor-Leste to make every effort to implement the recommendations accepted and to further human rights for the benefit of its people. Romania was convinced that the upcoming presidential and legislative elections would bring further progress.

826. Angola recognized the Government's commitment to the implementation of several of the recommendations received during the review. It highlighted two recommendations: one on the strengthening of democratic institutions, the other on combating violence against women. Angola welcomed the reforms made in the area of human rights, in particular the adoption of a new civil code that guaranteed gender equality, the establishment of an independent human rights institution and the creation of a commission against corruption. It called on the international community to accompany the efforts and reforms made by Timor-Leste.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

827. Provedoria de Direitos Humanos, an A-status human rights institution, noted that a total of 125 recommendations had been made. It recognized the challenges faced in a young, developing nation and in addressing the needs of its population, who lived for many years under occupation. It regretted the delays in addressing the human rights violations

committed between 1975 and 1999. Unlike the State, the institution believed that reconciliation, national unity and lasting peace could not exist without truth, justice and the rule of law. It urged Timor-Leste to keep its promise to implement universal periodic review recommendations. The institution and civil society were ready to provide support.

828. Instituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, the International Volunteerism Organizations for Women, Education and Development, Mouvement international d'apostolat des milieux sociaux indépendants and the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, recognized the efforts of the Government in the area of human rights, in particular children's rights. They highlighted the adoption of the national strategic plan for education 2011–2015 that placed the well-being of children at the centre of school decision-making. Nevertheless, they noted different problems in the accessibility, availability and acceptability of education. They also noted the persistence of child labour, sexual exploitation, child trafficking and violence against children in the country.

829. Amnesty International noted that, although two draft laws establishing a national reparations programme and a public memory institute had been submitted to Parliament in 2010, the debate thereon had been delayed. In this way, Timor-Leste continued to deny justice and effective reparation to victims of crimes against humanity and grave human rights violations committed between 1975 and 1999. It also noted that, to date, not a single person had been prosecuted for human rights violations during the occupation. Attempts to bring to justice for violations during the 1999 referendum had also been grossly inadequate. Amnesty International was disappointed that the universal periodic review had failed to adequately address concerns raised in the stakeholders' summary relating to impunity, and urged the international community to do more.

830. Save the Children, on behalf of the Child Rights Coalition Timor-Leste, welcomed particularly the recommendations on children's rights. It called on the Government to implement policies to improve the quality of the school food programme. It also called for a substantial increase in the budget for education, with a goal of achieving the international standard of 20 per cent dedicated to education, as well as the establishment of a truly independent and fully resourced national child rights commission. It looked forward to the Government's continued cooperation with civil society organizations in the follow-up to and implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

831. The Marist International Solidarity Foundation and Franciscans International appreciated Timor-Leste's commitment to human rights despite the challenges faced. They commended the development of the strategic plan of action for education for 2011–2015, which placed the needs of children at the forefront of decision-making and urged Timor-Leste to maintain its commitment to universal primary education. They noted deficiencies with regard to equal access to education, especially for children with disabilities, and urged Timor-Leste to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. They welcomed the Children's Code, which prohibited corporal punishment, and called for assurances that child victims of violence would have access to adequate care. It endorsed the recommendations on establishing institutional mechanisms to protect children in the juvenile justice system, as well as those on integrating the best interests of the child into draft legislation.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

832. Timor-Leste thanked all delegations that had contributed to the outcome, as well as other stakeholders, including civil society. Unfortunately, as the presidential elections were about to be held, neither the representatives of the national human rights institutions nor of civil society were able to attend. Nonetheless, their contributions, made through their

representatives, were appreciated. Timor-Leste pledged to be true to its work in the implementation of recommendations.

833. The President noted that certain recommendations had been considered as partially accepted and that, in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, these would be regarded as noted.

Republic of Moldova

834. The review of the Republic of Moldova was held on 12 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by the Republic of Moldova in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/MDA/1 and A/HRC/WG.6/12/MDA/1/Corr.1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/MDA/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/MDA/3).

835. At its 42nd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of the Republic of Moldova (see section C below).

836. The outcome of the review of the Republic of Moldova comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/18), the views of the Republic of Moldova concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/18/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

837. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova stated that the universal periodic review had revolutionized the national system of human rights and was an opportunity to assess internally the implementation of international standards. The Government had learned from the preparation process and had consulted extensively since the review in October 2011. It had held a first joint follow-up meeting with intergovernmental organizations and civil society, and would continue to consult all stakeholders in the follow-up.

838. The delegation had received 122 recommendations, and had provided most responses at the session of the Working Group. Furthermore, responses to the 15 remaining recommendations were contained in the addendum (A/HRC/19/18/Add.1). The authorities had given and continued to give serious consideration to all recommendations, and each recommendation was an opportunity to re-examine positions. The Government had responded positively to the overwhelming majority of recommendations by accepting them totally or partially. Some of the issues raised focused on challenging areas where further attention was required.

839. In November 2011, the Strategy for Justice Sector Reform (2011–2016) was adopted by Parliament; in early 2012, a plan of action for the strategy implementation was approved. The strategy aims to, inter alia, reform the judicial system, criminal justice, access to justice and the execution of justice, and to promote anti-corruption measures, professional ethical standards and the monitoring of human rights in the justice system.

840. Since the adoption of the strategy, the Government had adopted a bill on the amendment of legislation regarding the organization and functioning of the judiciary, a bill on the selection, career and performance evaluation of judges, and a bill on the functioning of specialized courts.

841. In accordance with the strategy pillar on human rights, a working group on amending the Ombudsman Law had been established with the objective of upgrading the status of the national human rights institution, the Centre for Human Rights of Moldova, from B to A Status. The delegation expected that a new bill to this end would be adopted in 2012.

842. The Strategy for Justice Sector Reform also provided for preventing and combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and fought impunity. The criminal law would be amended with a view to removing the statute of limitations for the crime of torture. The delegation added that the Government had recently launched a process of equipping all police stations and temporary detention facilities with video cameras and video surveillance systems for monitoring compliance with the detention regime.

843. With regard to reducing the length of custody to 48 hours, the delegation stated that implementing this recommendation would require an amendment to article 25 of the Constitution, which set the limit at 72 hours. Consequently, this would be a lengthy exercise. Moreover, the reduction of the length of custody could prevent law enforcement bodies and the judiciary from conducting comprehensive investigations.

844. Regarding the events of April 2009, the delegation agreed that the comprehensive inquiry should be continued. To that end, the special commission tasked with compensating the victims of these events had resumed its activities.

845. The delegation stressed, that in order to strengthen existing rules, the bill on preventing and combating discrimination included an indicative list of discriminatory criteria and established a council for preventing and combating discrimination. The Government had embarked on broad consultations and the bill had been revised according to the proposals presented by national and international stakeholders.

846. In order to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Republic of Moldova was implementing a strategy for the social inclusion of persons with disabilities for the period 2010–2013. The bill on the social inclusion of persons with disabilities provided for the development and approval of a methodology for determining degrees of disabilities, in accordance with WHO standards. It also reorganized the structures and institutions responsible for the coordination of the system of social inclusion of persons with disabilities. In November 2011, the Government had launched an interministerial working group tasked to rethink the system of decision-making for persons with psychosocial disorders.

847. The delegation also reported on the adoption of amendments to the plan of action to support the Roma population for 2011–2015, which confirmed the commitment to promote and implement the social inclusion of Roma. The Government was currently working on a comprehensive costing exercise in order to secure the necessary budgetary funds.

848. With regard to freedom of religion, the Parliament had adopted, in December 2011, amendments to the renamed law on freedom of conscience, thought and religion. Adopted as a result of broad consultations, the amendments to the law had the aim of reaffirming the commitment of the State to ensure the equality and non-discrimination of all religious communities.

849. The national legal framework envisaged the creation of the conditions necessary to guarantee the respect of the right to education for all children. Pupils and students had the

right to choose the language of instruction at any level of education. A structural reform had been launched by the Government.

850. For the period 2011–2012, the network of pre-university institutions in the country included 1,456 institutions (schools, gymnasiums and high schools), of which 278 had access to education in Russian and 81 were mixed institutions. At the same time, local television and radio stations broadcast programmes in languages of national minorities, and newspapers and magazines were also disseminated in minority languages. According to a public opinion survey conducted in November 2011, the freedoms of the media and of access to information were listed as areas that had witnessed the most significant progress in the past two years. The delegation concluded by stressing that the recommendations received were an important point of reference in the Government's continued activity.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

851. Morocco welcomed the decision of the Republic of Moldova to include recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review in its national human rights plan of action for 2011–2014. By accepting almost all of the recommendations received, the State had reaffirmed its commitment to and full cooperation with the universal periodic review mechanism. Morocco welcomed the Government's commitment to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. This commitment was shown in particular through the progress made towards gender equality and the protection of the rights of women, children and minorities, the efforts made for persons with disabilities, the strategy to reform the judicial system, the reform of the penitentiary system and the specific measures taken to prevent human trafficking. Morocco encouraged the Republic of Moldova in its new initiatives, and wished it success in the implementation of the recommendations accepted.

852. Estonia noted with appreciation that the Republic of Moldova had already implemented and intended to implement a large number of the recommendations made during its review. Estonia considered especially important the adoption of the comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in line with international standards, the policies addressing the root causes of domestic violence, and the awareness-raising campaigns and the policies implemented to prevent the mistreatment of women and children. The creation of a modern institutional framework for the protection of human rights in such a short period of time was a noteworthy achievement. The Republic of Moldova had improved its criminal code and legal framework in the areas of juvenile justice, human trafficking, peaceful assembly and access to legal and social assistance.

853. Algeria congratulated the Republic of Moldova on the measures taken since October 2011 for the implementation of recommendations, and encouraged it to finalize the various plans for human rights and to implement them. Algeria welcomed the commitment to the recommendation on measures to strengthen harmony and tolerance between the different segments of society. It noted with great satisfaction that the recommendation for strengthening training programmes on human rights for law enforcement officials had already been implemented. Algeria noted the State's partial acceptance of the recommendation for the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It hoped that the consideration of this matter would result in the ratification thereof to ensure better protection for this vulnerable category of persons.

854. Romania commended the Republic of Moldova for not having rejected any recommendation made during the universal periodic review process. In particular, it noted with appreciation the acceptance of the recommendations relating to raising awareness of the State language in society and the promotion of human rights in the Transnistrian region.

Romania acknowledged the efforts made to improve legal and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of human rights, in accordance with international standards.

855. Belarus noted with satisfaction that the Republic of Moldova had accepted the vast majority of the recommendations made, which demonstrated the Government's commitment to strengthening the national capacity to promote and protect human rights. The universal periodic review process provided an opportunity to assess achievements, including in the reform of domestic laws. Belarus noted with appreciation the Government's effort to reduce the level of poverty, provide support for the most vulnerable groups, guarantee universal primary education, combat human trafficking and protect the rights of women and children. It also appreciated the readiness expressed by the Government to strengthen the protection of national minorities.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

856. Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit – COC Nederland and the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) noted, that among other commitments, the Republic of Moldova had expressed its unequivocal support to ensure that actions would be undertaken to build broad support for the rights of LGBT persons in the new anti-discrimination law, and that the right to freedom of expression and assembly would be upheld for LGBT communities. Unfortunately, the reality was different. The city of Balti and several other local councils had adopted decisions making the region a forbidden zone for “aggressive propaganda of non-traditional sexual orientations” and “homosexual demonstrations”. At the same time, the mayor of Chisinau had banned Pride manifestations in the past two years. In 2008, a group of Pride participants had been exposed to savage reprisals by extremist groups and left unprotected by the police. COC and ILGA asked the delegation to explain how it viewed these developments in the light of its commitments. In this context, they emphasized that such bans perpetuated a climate of homophobia and transphobia. They urged the Government to, inter alia, express its explicit support for the Human Rights Council resolution adopted in 2011, in which the Council condemned violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and to respond to the recently adopted unconstitutional homophobic decisions made by local municipalities.

857. The World Alliance for Citizen Participation (CIVICUS) urged the Government to adopt a comprehensive and inclusive anti-discrimination law, and to set up effective implementation mechanisms to prevent and combat human rights abuses. While expressing concern at the violation of the rights of ethnic, religious and sexual minorities, CIVICUS urged the Republic of Moldova to take further steps to ensure adequate protection for all minorities, including the protection of the rights of LGBT persons. It also encouraged the Government to continue its efforts to support the development of a strong, free and independent civil society. CIVICUS urged the Government to review and revise its national human rights plan of action and other human rights documents with a view to develop a policy document that incorporated universal periodic review recommendations.

858. Amnesty International continued to receive reports of torture and other forms of ill-treatment being used in the Republic of Moldova. It therefore welcomed the Government's commitment to combat torture and other ill-treatment, as recommended by several States. Amnesty International was concerned that there had been little progress in prosecuting police officers responsible for torture and other ill-treatment during the events following the elections in April 2009. During her visit to the Republic of Moldova in November 2011, the High Commissioner stressed the need to enact a comprehensive anti-discrimination law without delay. In the review at the session of the Working Group, this call had been echoed by no fewer than 13 States. Amnesty International joined them in urging the Government to

adopt, without further delay, the Anti-Discrimination Law that had been under discussion for almost five years.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

859. The delegation of the Republic of Moldova stated that, by accepting all universal periodic review recommendations, the Moldovan authorities had demonstrated that there were still issues to be resolved, on the one hand, and the political will of the Government to address existing problems, on the other.

860. The Ministry of Justice was conducting consultations with civil society and other relevant stakeholders to finalize the bill on anti-discrimination. The delegation underlined the fact that the bill was fully in line with international standards, and that the issue had been artificially politicized. The Government would promote a sensitive policy, which would take time and careful work.

861. With regard to the recent decisions of local public authorities on the LGBT community, the said decisions were administrative acts. Any person who believed that an administrative act adopted by a local public authority infringed his or her rights could initiate court proceedings. At the same time, the national human rights institution had condemned the decisions adopted by a few local councils declaring that they were derogating from the legal framework. The authorities would continue to pay special attention and to promote dialogue in order to ensure smooth adoption of the anti-discrimination law.

862. Human rights in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova were a priority for State authorities. Human rights issues in this region would be part of the agenda of official negotiations in the 5+2 format, resumed recently, and would also be raised in the framework of the activity of the Working Group on confidence-building measures.

863. The delegation stated that, during a careful analysis of the universal periodic review recommendations, it had noticed that many have similarities with the concluding observations of regional or treaty bodies. In this context and with the support of the United Nations country team, the Government had commenced the review and amendment process of the national human rights plan of action for 2011–2014. Earlier in 2012, the monitoring commission for the implementation of the plan of action had been established. Shortly after the adoption of the universal periodic review outcome, the commission would convene its first meeting to establish steps for the implementation of the review recommendations.

Haiti

864. The review of Haiti was held on 13 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

(a) The national report submitted by Haiti in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/HTI/1);

(b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/HTI/2);

(c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/HTI/3).

865. At its 42nd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Haiti (see section C below).

866. The outcome of the review of Haiti comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/19), the views of Haiti concerning the

recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/19/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

867. The Minister for Justice and Public Security of Haiti expressed his condolences to the people and the Government of Belgium following the tragic death of 28 people, including 22 children, in a road accident in Switzerland.

868. Despite the difficult situation in Haiti, the President of Haiti intended to keep his electoral promises of respecting the rule of law and human rights.

869. The Minister referred to the Government's involvement of civil society in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, in a national consultation that was held on 14 February 2012. Of 136 recommendations made, 122 had been accepted, including 3 with reservations, while 14 had been temporarily rejected. The recommendations accepted included some that had already been implemented, including judicial reform, improvement of the penitentiary system, the fight against impunity, violence against women and girls, the right to education, and the rehousing of the victims of the earthquake of 12 January 2010.

870. With regard to judicial reform, the vacant posts in the Court of Appeal had been filled. The members of the Supreme Judicial Council were known and the certification process was moving towards its conclusive phase. A new commission, including three former Ministers for Justice, had also been created to propose reforms to the President.

871. On the improvement of the penitentiary system, the construction of a new prison had begun in accordance with the minimum norms accepted at the international level. To resolve the problem of prolonged pretrial detention, the Government intended to enforce respect for the 48-hour rule provided for by the Constitution. Since February 2012, a new commission had been established for judicial authorities to make inquiries in tribunals, police stations and detention centres to identify cases of prolonged or abusive detention. A new programme had allowed the release of 116 people between July 2011 and January 2012.

872. The Government had shown its determination to fight impunity by prosecuting police officers who were responsible for the death of several detainees during an attempted escape after the earthquake of January 2010. The Minister also highlighted the case of Jean-Claude Duvalier and the Government's aim to sensitize the legal authorities to the international conventions relating to crimes against humanity and serious violations of human rights. The Minister referred to the removal of statutory limitations in cases of torture and enforced disappearance.

873. Violence against women had significantly worsened since the earthquake of 12 January 2010. An international symposium had therefore been organized for January 2012 to ensure a national policy on this matter. A national forum on issues relating to Haitian women was organized in March 2012 with the participation of 600 delegates from various national departments under the patronage of the First Lady. A more effective follow-up would also be given to cases of female victims of violence and ill-treatment.

874. Education was one of the main priorities of the President. A national fund for education was being considered. School transport was free for those enrolled in the public system. There had been an appeal for the building of 28 new schools in 7 of 10 departments, in addition to the reconstruction of the secondary schools damaged by the

earthquake. Furthermore, 300,000 school students would benefit from the national school canteen programme.

875. Regarding the housing of earthquake victims, in February 2012, the President had inaugurated 400 35 m² homes under Programme 400/100 financed by the Inter-American Development Bank. Another programme launched by the Government in August 2011, Programme 16/6, supported displaced persons by offering a durable housing solution and providing subsidies for their relocation.

876. The Minister stated that the Government would have liked to accept all the recommendations; however, it was unable to do so and therefore had accepted partially some of them. For example, with regard to recommendation 88.71, the Government would make every effort to facilitate the access of detainees to health services, food, water and sanitation, but was unable to at this time in a uniform manner owing to its limited resources.

877. The Government was determined to combat the phenomenon of child domestic workers.

878. With regard to impunity (recommendation 88.100), the Government was determined to combat all forms of impunity, but did not believe that it was necessary to establish a commission on impunity.

879. Lastly, some of the recommendations demanded a broad national consensus before their adoption; the Government had therefore decided to reject 14 of them. These recommendations could be regrouped under four themes: the ratification of the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on the Reduction of Statelessness; the adoption of a code on children, which also depended on the elaboration of a family code; the establishment of a national human rights institution in conformity with the Paris Principles; and the issuance of a standing invitation to all special procedures.

880. The Minister closed his introductory statement by thanking the President, the troika and the staff of OHCHR for their important contribution to the universal periodic review of Haiti.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

881. Uruguay commended Haiti for its engagement with the universal periodic review, and applauded the fact that its recommendations on administration of justice, reconstruction and education were being implemented. Uruguay highlighted the commitment of Haiti to combat impunity and the priority given to education. It also paid tribute to the efforts made by Haiti to build decent homes for victims of the earthquake. It encouraged Haiti to continue to intensify the fight against all forms of trafficking in women. Uruguay considered that the ratification of human rights instruments by Haiti would strengthen its legal framework to promote and protect human rights.

882. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted that Haiti faced a number of constraints caused by the 2010 earthquake. The humanitarian crisis threatened human rights. It expressed its concern at the cholera epidemic, but praised Haiti's efforts to allocate grants to rebuild schools and housing, even though it was still insufficient. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterated its call to developed countries and the United Nations to provide the support and humanitarian assistance needed by Haiti. It made also a call for the cancellation of its external debt.

883. Cuba stated that Haiti still needed to overcome constraints to implement human rights policies. Haiti's situation had been affected by the global economic crisis and by internal crises, such as natural disaster and poverty. Cuba reiterated that improving Haiti's

situation remained a global obligation. Haiti needed the help of the United Nations and Member States to strengthen its sovereignty and self-determination. Cuba acknowledged that Haiti had accepted its recommendations on poverty and inequality reduction, the organization and extension of education and health systems, the extension of the housing supply and the relocation of affected persons.

884. India commended the efforts made by Haiti to participate in the universal periodic review process despite the daunting challenges posed by the aftermath of the earthquake. It welcomed the encouraging steps taken towards the right to decent housing and the rehousing of those made homeless in 2010, as well as the efforts to eradicate hunger and to combat human trafficking. Haiti's courageous and resilient approach to rebuilding and stabilizing the country despite its lack of resources and in the wake of natural disasters was notable. The international community should therefore continue to extend technical assistance and capacity-building in accordance with Haiti's needs.

885. Morocco stated that, despite the crises and disasters that had affected Haiti, most particularly the earthquake of 2010, Haiti had still managed to keep its commitment to the Human Rights Council by submitting its universal periodic review report, which contained ambitious programmes aiming at the construction of a favourable economic and social environment for the exercise of human rights. Morocco welcomed the fact that Haiti had accepted 122 recommendations out of 136 made, which reflected Haiti's determination to ensure respect for human rights. Morocco noted with appreciation the acceptance of its recommendation on a plan of action for national reconstruction and development and national strategies for education for all and to ensure training for judges, judicial authorities and law enforcement officers, particularly in the area of human rights. It encouraged Haiti to pursue its intention to formalize the interministerial committee, which had prepared Haiti's first review, and make it a standing committee.

886. The United States of America commended Haiti for already implementing one of its recommendations by filling four vacancies at the Supreme Court. This included filling the vacancy of the presidency of the Court of Appeal, a step that would allow the creation of a superior judicial council. It was also pleased that Haiti had agreed to take the necessary steps to permit the judicial system to combat impunity effectively. It urged Haiti to continue to take steps to ensure accountability, which would help to strengthen the rule of law and to break the pervasive cycle of impunity that hindered reconciliation and limited Haiti's economic development. The United States also echoed the recommendations made by Peru and France, and accepted by Haiti, that it should continue cooperation with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti. The continuation of the Independent Expert's mandate would assist in the identification of new technical assistance opportunities and other collaboration to help Haiti to advance human rights.

887. France stated that, despite the efforts of the Haitian authorities and the scale of the mobilization by the international community and the United Nations, the challenges in overcoming the consequences of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on 10 January 2010 were vast. The restoration of the rule of law and the full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Haiti should be a priority. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti had a major role to play in providing advice and assisting Haiti in implementing the necessary reforms. The Independent Expert could also draw the attention of the international community to Haiti's needs. France would continue to work actively alongside Haiti in building democracy and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

888. Algeria appreciated the fact that Haiti had accepted a large number of universal periodic review recommendations. Haiti's efforts, with the assistance of the international community, had led to achievements in recovery and reconstruction. Algeria congratulated Haiti on the measures taken to strengthen political stability. It paid tribute to the frank way

in which Haiti had addressed the human rights situation during its review. Algeria recognized that natural disasters, the fragility of the ecosystem and climate change all had a negative impact on human rights. Given the scale of the difficulties that Haiti had to face, it was vital that the international community continue to provide assistance.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

889. Instituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice, on behalf of a coalition of non-governmental organizations, welcomed the finalization of the very detailed operational plan for 2010–2015 by the Ministry of National Education and Professional Training and contained in “Towards reforms of Haiti’s education system”, which showed Haiti’s determination to respond ambitiously and specifically to its fragmented education system. It hoped that Haiti would be able to implement the plan as soon as possible in order to promote free mandatory schooling for all children at the primary-school level, and also to improve the quality of all levels of education by 2015. It recommended that Haiti take into account a human rights-based approach in all its initiatives so as to ensure equitable reconstruction and to build a fairer society based on the integration into the education system of the most vulnerable groups, particularly girls, children with disabilities, poor children, undocumented children and children living in rural areas. Special attention had to be paid to children who had become disabled as a result of the earthquake and who also needed psychological support in adapting to their new conditions. It recommended that Haiti make plans and establish a system of direct monitoring of private schools. It also suggested the standardization of curricula and school handbooks, the training of teachers and that priority be given to the quality of teaching and learning.

890. Human Rights Advocates noted that people were still living in internal displacement camps and the fact that Haiti had not yet adopted a comprehensive rehousing plan, despite regional recommendations. It commended Haiti for having ratified the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Despite the evidence against Jean-Claude Duvalier, the judge had dismissed all crimes against humanity. Human Rights Advocates recommended that Haiti and the international community assure a fair and transparent judicial process. It recalled that senatorial and local elections had not been held in November 2011, and recommended that a permanent electoral council be appointed and all due measures be taken accordingly.

891. Human Rights Watch congratulated Haiti on having passed a bill to ratify the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Haiti had to take steps towards the realization of the rights enshrined in the Covenant and fulfil its obligations under other human rights treaties, which included ensuring that women and girls had access to reproductive and maternal health services. It was concerned, however, that Haiti’s attitude to holding former President Jean-Claude Duvalier to account had seriously damaged its credibility with regard to the upholding of a core and fundamental element of human rights. Under human rights conventions to which Haiti was a party, statutes of limitations were inapplicable to cases of gross human rights violations proscribed by international law. Nonetheless, in November 2011, the new State prosecutor had recommended the dismissal of the human rights charges against Mr. Duvalier, while the President, Michel Martelly, had suggested that he would pardon or amnesty him. On 30 January 2012, the instructing judge had found that the statute of limitations in the criminal code prevented the prosecution of human rights crimes. The President had listed building the rule of law as a priority in his reconstruction efforts. If the concept of the rule of law had any meaning, however, it was that those accused of the worst crimes should be brought to justice and given a fair trial. Impunity in the Duvalier case would entrench the distrust that many Haitians had in the justice system.

892. The Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti expressed its concern at the implementation of the recommendations accepted by Haiti, and criticized the exclusion of certain non-governmental organizations in the national consultation process. Regarding justice, it noted that Haiti had to first, inter alia, set up its judicial system and strengthen its capacity. It added that Haiti had to facilitate access to free legal assistance, especially for the most vulnerable, and referred to the case of Duvalier. With regard to gender-based violence, it stressed the need to train police and judiciary personnel on gender and sexual exploitation issues. It also expressed its concern at the cholera epidemic.

893. Amnesty International welcomed the adoption by the National Assembly of legislation for the ratification of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and urged Haiti to strengthen its efforts to make the rights enshrined in the Covenant a reality for the Haitian people. It was concerned at the recent judicial decision to drop criminal charges against Jean-Claude Duvalier for grave human rights violations committed under his Government, some of which might amount to crimes against humanity. This decision reinforced the prevailing impunity and was a clear setback in efforts to strengthen the rule of law in Haiti. It urged Haiti to ensure that alleged crimes committed under his rule were investigated and that those responsible were brought to justice. The issue of housing rights remained largely unaddressed in the reconstruction process. Thousands of people had been forcibly evicted or relocated, without adequate safeguards or prior consultation. Evictions should be a measure of last resort, and always be carried out in accordance with international human rights standards. Violence against women and girls remained a serious problem, and impunity for such crimes prevailed. Amnesty International urged Haiti to complete the drafting, adoption and implementation of new legislation to combat violence against women and girls, and to protect their rights.

894. Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme thanked Haiti for its clear and detailed universal periodic review report. It acknowledged some progress, such as the establishment of human rights defence institutions, and congratulated Haiti on, inter alia, the abolition of the death penalty and the establishment of a brigade for the protection of minors. It encouraged Haiti to continue its efforts in housing, combating the sexual exploitation of women, girls and children, improving the situation of detainees, including juveniles, and fighting corruption.

4. Concluding remarks of the State under review

895. The Minister thanked States for their comments. He reiterated the commitment of the new authorities to the establishment of the rule of law and to contribute significantly to improve the living conditions of the Haitian people, especially with regard to education and housing. The Minister also reported on the new housing policy where no one could be evicted without alternative relocation. The Minister thanked the international community for its support.

Antigua and Barbuda

896. The review of Antigua and Barbuda was held on 4 October 2011 in conformity with all relevant provisions contained in Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, and was based on the following documents:

- (a) The national report submitted by Antigua and Barbuda in accordance with the annex to Council resolution 5/1, paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ATG/1);
- (b) The compilation prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ATG/2);
- (c) The summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/12/ATG/3).

897. At its 42nd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council considered and adopted the outcome of the review of Antigua and Barbuda (see section C below).

898. The outcome of the review of Antigua and Barbuda comprises the report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (A/HRC/19/5), the views of Antigua and Barbuda concerning the recommendations and/or conclusions, and its voluntary commitments and replies presented before the adoption of the outcome by the plenary to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue in the Working Group (see also A/HRC/19/5/Add.1).

1. Views expressed by the State under review on the recommendations and/or conclusions, its voluntary commitments and the outcome

899. Pursuant to Antigua and Barbuda's request and on its behalf, the President of the Human Rights Council presented the State's views on the recommendations, given that Antigua and Barbuda could not be present at the meeting. Antigua and Barbuda had submitted its position and views on the recommendations in writing, which could be found in the addendum to the report of the Working Group.

900. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda had accepted all recommendations contained in paragraph 68 of the report of the Working Group, except for the ones noted below, of which due note was taken.

901. With regard to the recommendation on strengthening its legal arsenal by acceding to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Antigua and Barbuda stated that any alteration of existing legislation and binding judicial pronouncements on matters relating to the death penalty was not an acceptable position. That apart, Antigua and Barbuda would seek to adopt the other provisions of the Covenant.

902. On issuing a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council, Antigua and Barbuda acknowledged the importance of the special procedures in ensuring that human rights obligations under the various conventions were respected and upheld. It also expressed its willingness to cooperate, but could not accept that recommendation at the current time because of the financial burden and additional requirements that such an invitation would impose on a small island developing State like Antigua and Barbuda. However, it would continue to monitor the implications with a view to accepting such invitations in the future.

903. Concerning recommendations 68.23 to 68.25, on raising the age of criminal responsibility, Antigua and Barbuda was aware of the emotional, mental and relative intellectual maturity of juveniles and would give active consideration to the recommendations to increase the legal minimum age for criminal responsibility in accordance with internationally acceptable standards.

904. On recommendation 68.31, with regard to implementing public awareness campaigns on discrimination based on sexual preference, Antigua and Barbuda recognized the human rights of all citizens. However, the issue of discrimination based on sexual orientation was still a matter of concern, and it was of the view that implementing policies based on sexual orientation required extensive public consultation and education, given the current predisposition of its people and their religious influences and indoctrination.

905. On recommendation 68.8, that it consider the ratification of those international instruments of human rights to which it was not yet party, Antigua and Barbuda was a party to a number of core human rights instruments and would continue to work towards completing the accession process to those that it considered acceptable following cabinet and/or public consultation.

906. Antigua and Barbuda welcomed this exercise and was grateful to the States Members of the Human Rights Council for their commendations on its work in progress, as well as their recommendations on areas in which more work was needed. In that regard, Antigua and Barbuda welcomed the continued support and encouragement of the Council as it strove to achieve the high ideals being pursued by that august body.

2. Views expressed by Member and observer States of the Human Rights Council on the review outcome

907. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela appreciated Antigua and Barbuda's cooperation with the universal periodic review and its commitment to human rights. It welcomed the efforts made by Antigua and Barbuda in the realization of human rights despite the challenges faced. During the review, it had appreciated Antigua and Barbuda's achievements in educational policies, providing school lunches to primary schools in disadvantaged zones, guaranteeing free primary and secondary education, and taking measures to strengthen the school system at all levels in order to meet universal education goals in 2013. It encouraged Antigua and Barbuda to continue to promote social policies with the support of the international community. It appreciated the participation of Antigua and Barbuda in the universal periodic review process.

908. For Cuba, Antigua and Barbuda was a fraternal country that shared the history, cultural traditions and challenges of island States in the Caribbean. Antigua and Barbuda had worked for the socioeconomic development of its society through integration projects to which Cuba had also contributed, particularly in the area of health, education and developing its infrastructure. In its endeavours, Antigua and Barbuda had been affected by an unfair international order, a global crisis and challenges facing humanity. Cuba highlighted the human rights achievements of Antigua and Barbuda, such as the actions to fight and reduce poverty and to provide family services and social welfare. Universal primary and secondary education was a reality in the country. Cuba also highlighted the actions to prevent HIV/AIDS. To promote social security, gender issues and employment, and to preserve and promote culture, were priorities for the Government. Equally important was attaining the Millennium Development Goals. Cuba congratulated Antigua and Barbuda on having accepted a large number of recommendations, including those made by Cuba. It recommended that the report of the Working Group be adopted, and reiterated its solidarity.

909. Singapore was encouraged by Antigua and Barbuda's constructive participation in the review. As a fellow member of the Alliance of Small Island States, Singapore recognized the challenges faced by Antigua and Barbuda in its economic development. Despite these challenges, Antigua and Barbuda had made significant progress in enhancing the enjoyment of human rights by its people. Antigua and Barbuda had demonstrated its commitment to human rights. Singapore endorsed the adoption of the report of the Working Group and wished the country success in the implementation of the recommendations.

910. Morocco congratulated Antigua and Barbuda on having accepting a large number of the recommendations, including those made by Morocco, and reiterated its readiness to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the field of human rights. Morocco believed that the challenges and constraints faced by Antigua and Barbuda, as a small island State, were numerous. These could not be overcome through the efforts of the national authorities alone. The people of Antigua and Barbuda were strong in their will and solidarity and able to continue the march towards strengthening democracy and the rule of law. The irreversible attachment of Antigua and Barbuda to human rights could only be attained by help from donors and international partners. The latter should respond to the needs expressed by Antigua and Barbuda, notably regarding capacity-building and technical assistance. Morocco encouraged Antigua and Barbuda to make the best of the universal

periodic review exercise, an excellent opportunity to exchange best practices with a view to finding solutions to difficulties that affect small islands States.

911. Algeria recalled that, during the review, it had welcomed Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to human rights despite the human, environmental and financial difficulties that it faced, like other small island States. Algeria repeated its call to the international community to provide assistance to these island States to support their efforts to promote and protect human rights. Algeria welcomed the fact that Antigua and Barbuda had accepted most of the recommendations, including the ones made by Algeria with regard to accession to the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the establishment of a national human rights institution. Algeria wished Antigua and Barbuda success in implementing the recommendations accepted, and encouraged it to continue its work in the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. General comments made by other relevant stakeholders

912. The Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, also on behalf of the Meeting Emotional and Social Needs Holistically and the Caribbean Forum for Liberation and Acceptance of Genders and Sexualities, called the attention of the Human Rights Council to the particular challenges relating to sexual orientation and gender identity faced by rights-holders in such small island developing States as Antigua and Barbuda. Contrary to the State's view that discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity did not exist, such acts were ongoing. It urged Antigua and Barbuda to follow up on police reports filed, consistent with its acceptance of recommendation 67.28 to end such violence, and to address its root causes. Non-governmental organizations were committed to working with the Government in drafting policies and initiatives to which Antigua and Barbuda committed in recommendation 67.29, to address such discrimination. Antigua and Barbuda had acknowledged changes in public opinion with regard to same-sex conduct and admitted to having made little use of the serious indecency statute. The law, however, sanctioned violence, drove stigma and, especially in small island States, fuelled fear to exercise the rights to freedom of assembly and expression. It urged Antigua and Barbuda to follow other Caribbean States and declare a moratorium on enforcing laws against private sexual conduct between consenting adults. It also congratulated Antigua and Barbuda on its planned accession to several human rights conventions, and thanked the many States that made those recommendations.

913. Amnesty International welcomed the fact that there had been no executions in Antigua and Barbuda in the past 11 years, and also the Government's commitment to rigorously apply international standards for fair trials in all death penalty cases. It was disappointed, however, that Antigua and Barbuda had rejected the recommendations made by six States to abolish the death penalty. It recalled that the death penalty violated the right to life, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It urged Antigua and Barbuda to impose a formal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to abolishing it; to commute all death sentences to terms of imprisonment; to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and to vote in support of the next General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. It welcomed Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to condemn human rights violations against persons on the grounds of sexual orientation and to institute policies and initiatives to address discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It emphasized, however, that the removal of discriminatory laws was a first step in fighting the stigma surrounding homosexuality, and it regretted Antigua and Barbuda's rejection of recommendations to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex. It also welcomed Antigua and Barbuda's support for recommendations to sign and

ratify human rights conventions, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

B. General debate on agenda item 6

914. At its 43rd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 6, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Algeria⁸⁰ (on behalf of 40 States), Bangladesh, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark⁸⁰ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Ukraine), Hungary, Pakistan⁸⁰ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Spain, United States of America, Uruguay;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Colombia, Morocco, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Slovenia, Sudan;

(c) Observers for intergovernmental organizations: Council of Europe, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action Canada for Population and Development, International Service for Human Rights, United Nations Watch, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik.

C. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Tajikistan

915. At the 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/101 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

United Republic of Tanzania

916. At the 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/102 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Libya

917. At the 37th meeting, on 14 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/103 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Swaziland

918. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 18/104 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Trinidad and Tobago

919. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 18/105 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

⁸⁰ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

Thailand

920. At the 38th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 18/106 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Ireland

921. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/107 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Togo

922. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/108 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Syrian Arab Republic

923. At the 39th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/109 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

924. At the 40th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/110 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Iceland

925. At the 40th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/111 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Zimbabwe

926. At the 40th meeting, on 15 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/112 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Lithuania

927. At the 41st meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/113 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Uganda

928. At the 41st meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/114 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Timor-Leste

929. At the 41st meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/115 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Republic of Moldova

930. At the 42nd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/116 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Haiti

931. At the 42nd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/117 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

Antigua and Barbuda

932. At the 42nd meeting, on 16 March 2012, the Human Rights Council adopted draft decision 19/118 without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter II).

VII. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories

A. General debate on agenda item 7

933. At the 31st meeting, on 12 March 2012, the representative of Palestine made a statement on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

934. At the 44th meeting, on 19 March 2012, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented her report (A/HRC/19/20) and the report of the Secretary-General (A/HRC/19/46 and Add.1).

935. At the same meeting, the representatives of Israel and the Syrian Arab Republic made statements as the States concerned, and the representative of Palestine made a statement as the party concerned.

936. Also at the same meeting, and at the 45th meeting, on the same day, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 7, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina⁸⁰ (on behalf of MERCOSUR, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)), Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Denmark⁸⁰ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Ecuador, Egypt⁸⁰ (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), India (also on behalf of Brazil and South Africa), Indonesia, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania (also on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Norway, Pakistan⁸⁰ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iceland, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Nicaragua, Oman, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, BADIL Resource Centre for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches, Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (also on behalf of B'nai B'rith), European Union of Jewish Students, Institute for Women's Studies and Research, International Association of Democratic Lawyers (also on behalf of the American Association of Jurists), International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues (also on behalf of the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights), Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Nord-Sud XXI, Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust, Union of Arab Jurists (also on behalf of the General Arab Women Federation and the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), United Nations Watch.

937. At the 45th meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of Iran (Islamic Republic of).

B. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan

938. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.3, sponsored by Pakistan, on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and co-sponsored by Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Angola, Belarus and Nicaragua joined the sponsors.

939. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

940. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

941. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.3. The draft resolution was adopted by 33 votes in favour, 1 against, with 13 abstentions.

942. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/14.

Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

943. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.33, sponsored by Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Palestine, and co-sponsored by Austria, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, Switzerland and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Greece, Malta, Monaco, Nicaragua, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden joined the sponsors.

944. At the same meeting, the representative of Israel made a statement as the State concerned, and the representative of Palestine made a statement as the party concerned.

945. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote on draft resolutions A/HRC/19/L.33 and A/HRC/19/L.34.

946. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.33. The draft resolution was adopted by 46 votes in favour, 1 against.

947. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/15.

Situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

948. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.34, sponsored by Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Palestine, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Nicaragua joined the sponsors.

949. At the same meeting, the representative of Pakistan orally revised the draft resolution.

950. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are Members of the Human Rights Council) made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

951. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted by 44 votes in favour, 1 against, with 2 abstentions.

952. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/16.

Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan

953. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.35, sponsored by Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Palestine, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Luxembourg, Malta, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden and Switzerland joined the sponsors.

954. At the same meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement as the State concerned.

955. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

956. At the same meeting, the representatives of Austria, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic (also on behalf of Hungary, Poland and Romania), Italy (also on behalf of Spain), Mexico and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

957. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by 36 votes in favour, 1 against, with 10 abstentions.

958. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/17.

Follow-up to the report of the United Nations independent international fact-finding mission on the Gaza conflict

959. At the 53rd meeting, on 22 March 2012, the representative of Pakistan introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.36, sponsored by Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and Palestine, and co-sponsored by Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cuba and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Nicaragua joined the sponsors.

960. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

961. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of States members of the European Union that are Members of the Human Rights Council), India and the United States of America made statements in explanation of vote before the vote.

962. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution. The draft resolution was adopted by 29 votes in favour, 1 against, with 17 abstentions.

963. For the text as adopted and voting results, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/18.

VIII. Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

964. At its 45th meeting, on 19 March 2012, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 8, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Argentina⁸¹ (on behalf of MERCOSUR, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru), Chile, Denmark⁸¹ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Djibouti, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Spain, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Colombia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Monaco, Morocco;

(c) Observer for a national human rights institution: Australian Human Rights Commission;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, Agence internationale pour le développement, Amnesty International, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII (also on behalf of the AVSI Foundation, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the International Association of Charities, the International Council of Catholic Men, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education, New Humanity, the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and the World Youth Alliance), Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, Centrist Democratic International, Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, International Buddhist Relief Organization, International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, Liberation, United Nations Watch, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Muslim Congress.

965. At the same meeting, a statement in exercise of the right of reply was made by the representative of China.

⁸¹ Observer of the Human Rights Council speaking on behalf of Member and observer States.

IX. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

A. General debate on agenda item 9

966. At the 48th meeting, on 20 March 2012, the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, Mohamed Siad Douale, presented the report of the Working Group on its ninth session, held from 17 to 28 October 2011 (A/HRC/19/77).

967. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 9, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Bangladesh, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark⁸¹ (on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Egypt⁸¹ (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Indonesia, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan⁸¹ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Russian Federation, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Brazil, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, France, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, Nepal, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs, African Association of Education for Development, African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy, Fraternité Notre Dame, Indian Council of South America, International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, International Buddhist Relief Organization, International Committee for the Indians of the Americas, International Educational Development, Inc., International Islamic Federation of Student Organizations, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Liberation, Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, Nord-Sud XXI, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, United Nations Watch, United Schools International, United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, World Muslim Congress.

968. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of the right of reply were made by the representatives of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Latvia and the Russian Federation.

969. Also at the same meeting, statements in exercise of the second right of reply were made by the representatives of Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

B. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

970. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.7, sponsored by Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) and co-

sponsored by Australia and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Subsequently, Belarus, Nicaragua, Thailand and Uruguay joined the sponsors.

971. At the same meeting, the representative of the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

972. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/25).

X. Technical assistance and capacity-building

A. Interactive dialogue with special procedures mandate holders

Individual interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire

973. At the 49th meeting, on 21 March 2012, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire, Doudou Diène, presented his report (A/HRC/19/72).

974. At the same meeting, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire made a statement as the State concerned.

975. During the ensuing interactive dialogue, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the Independent Expert questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Burkina Faso, China, Maldives, Nigeria, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia, Canada, France, Morocco, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: European Union;

(d) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: UNICEF;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: Democracy Coalition Project, Femmes Afrique Solidarité, Human Rights Watch, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, United Nations Watch.

976. At the same meeting, the Independent Expert answered questions and made his concluding remarks.

B. Annual discussion on best practices in technical cooperation

977. At the 50th meeting, on 21 March 2012, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 18/18, the Council held an annual thematic discussion to promote the sharing of experiences and best practices and technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights. The Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand, Sek Wannamethee, moderated the discussion for the panel. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights made introductory remarks for the panel.

978. During the ensuing panel discussion for the first slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Ecuador, Indonesia, Maldives, Mauritius, Norway, Pakistan⁸¹ (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation);

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Barbados, Japan, Kenya, Morocco, Paraguay, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Representatives of observer intergovernmental organizations: European Union, Inter Parliamentary Union.

979. Also at the same meeting, the moderator and the panellists Ridha Bouabid, Victore Bwire, Etta Rosales and Shireen Said made statements and answered questions.

980. During the ensuing panel discussion for the second slot, at the same meeting, the following made statements and asked the panellists questions:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Austria, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Mexico, Qatar, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Switzerland, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Australia (also on behalf of Canada and New Zealand), Brazil, Georgia, Honduras, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey;

(c) Observers for non-governmental organizations: International Service for Human Rights, Regional Centre for Human Rights and Gender Justice.

981. At the same meeting, the panellists answered questions and made their concluding remarks.

982. Also at the same meeting, the representative of OHCHR made a statement.

C. General debate on agenda item 10

983. At the 51st meeting, on 21 March 2012, the Deputy High Commissioner introduced country-specific reports submitted under agenda item 10 (A/HRC/19/47, A/HRC/19/48, A/HRC/19/49 and A/HRC/19/51).

984. At the same meeting, the representatives of Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Yemen made statements as the States concerned.

985. At the same meeting, the Human Rights Council held a general debate on agenda item 10, during which the following made statements:

(a) Representatives of States Members of the Human Rights Council: Australia⁸¹ (also on behalf of Hungary, Nigeria, Thailand and Uruguay), China, Denmark⁸¹ (also on behalf of the European Union, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Iceland, Montenegro, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine), Ecuador, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Norway, Pakistan⁸¹ (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation), Saudi Arabia, United States of America;

(b) Representatives of observer States: Algeria, Luxembourg, Morocco, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) Observer for an intergovernmental organization: Council of Europe;

(d) Observer for a United Nations entity, specialized agency and related organization: UNICEF;

(e) Observers for non-governmental organizations: African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters, American Civil Liberties Union, Amnesty International, Femmes Africa Solidarité, General Arab Women Federation, Human Rights Watch, International Buddhist Foundation, International Federation for Human Rights Leagues, Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development, Liberation, Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme, Union des Juristes Arabes (also on behalf of United

Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation), United Nations Watch, World Organisation against Torture.

D. Consideration of and action on draft proposals

Voluntary Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States

986. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representatives of Barbados, Maldives, Morocco, the Netherlands and Senegal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.6, sponsored by Barbados, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Senegal, Switzerland and Turkey and co-sponsored by Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Palestine, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen. Subsequently, Angola, Argentina, Bhutan, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Namibia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Serbia, Somalia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine and Vanuatu joined the sponsors.

987. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/26).

Situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the strengthening of technical cooperation and advisory services

988. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Senegal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.15/Rev.1, sponsored by Senegal, on behalf of the Group of African States.

989. At the same meeting, the representative of Senegal orally revised the draft resolution.

990. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Belgium, on behalf of States members of the European Union that are Members of the Human Rights Council made general comments in relation to the draft resolution.

991. At the same meeting, the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo made a statement as the State concerned.

992. Also at the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/27).

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

993. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representatives of Somalia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.28/Rev.1, sponsored by Somalia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and co-sponsored by Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic,

Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Maldives, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States), Serbia, Slovakia, Turkey and the United States of America. Subsequently, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Monaco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine and Yemen joined the sponsors.

994. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

995. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Mauritania made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

996. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/28).

Situation of human rights in Haiti

997. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the President of the Human Rights Council introduced a draft President's statement (A/HRC/19/L.32).

998. At the same meeting, the President of the Human Rights Council orally revised the draft statement.

999. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Haiti made a statement as the State concerned.

1000. At the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft president's statement.

1001. Also at the same meeting, the President's statement, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter III, PRST 19/2).

Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights

1002. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of the Netherlands introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.37/Rev.1, sponsored by the Netherlands and Yemen and co-sponsored by Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, France, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, Libya, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Morocco, Oman, Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Palestine, Poland, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Denmark, Indonesia, Japan, Kuwait, Maldives, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain and the Sudan joined the sponsors.

1003. At the same meeting, the representative of Yemen made a statement as the State concerned.

1004. Also at the same meeting, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the attention of the Human Rights Council was drawn to the estimated administrative and programme budget implications of the draft decision.

1005. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/29).

Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea

1006. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Senegal introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.40, sponsored by Guinea and co-sponsored by Canada, France, Norway and Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States). Subsequently, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America joined the sponsors.

1007. At the same meeting, the representatives of Guinea made a statement as the State concerned.

1008. At the same meeting, the draft resolution was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/30).

Assistance for Libya in the field of human rights

1009. At the 55th meeting, on 23 March 2012, the representative of Morocco introduced draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.39/Rev.1, sponsored by Libya and Morocco and co-sponsored by Italy, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan (on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation), Senegal (on behalf of the Group of African States with the exception of Uganda) and the United States of America. Subsequently, Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Indonesia, Ireland, Montenegro, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Thailand joined the sponsors.

1010. At the same meeting, the representative of Morocco orally revised the draft resolution.

1011. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Libya made a statement as the State concerned.

1012. At the same meeting, the representatives of the Russian Federation and Uganda made general comments in relation to the draft resolution, in which the Russian Federation introduced two oral amendments to the draft resolution and Uganda introduced one oral amendment to the draft resolution.

1013. Also at the same meeting, the representatives of Botswana, Cuba, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Mauritania, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Uganda and the United States of America made general comments in relation to the draft resolution and the oral amendments.

1014. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Libya, a recorded vote was taken on the first amendment introduced by the Russian Federation to draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.39/Rev.1. The amendment was rejected by 11 votes in favour, 16 against, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

Benin, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, United States of America

Abstaining:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand

1015. Also at the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Libya, a recorded vote was taken on the second oral amendment introduced by the Russian Federation to draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.39/Rev.1. The amendment was rejected by 13 votes in favour, 16 against, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Botswana, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

Benin, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, United States of America

Abstaining:

Angola, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, India, Indonesia, Mauritius, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand

1016. At the same meeting, at the request of the representative of Libya, a recorded vote was taken on the oral amendments introduced by Uganda to draft resolution A/HRC/19/L.39/Rev.1. The amendment was rejected by 15 votes in favour, 17 against, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Angola, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mauritius, Mexico, Peru, Russian Federation, Uganda, Uruguay

Against:

Benin, Czech Republic, Djibouti, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, United States of America

Abstaining:

Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cameroon, India, Kyrgyzstan, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand

1017. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Russian Federation made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote in relation to the draft resolution.

1018. At the same meeting, the draft resolution, as orally revised, was adopted without a vote (for the text as adopted, see part one, chapter I, resolution 19/39).

1019. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Maldives made a statement in explanation of vote after the vote in relation to the draft resolution and the oral amendments.

Annexes

Annex I

[English only]

Attendance

Members

Angola	Guatemala	Philippines
Austria	Hungary	Poland
Bangladesh	India	Norway
Belgium	Indonesia	Qatar
Benin	Italy	Republic of Moldova
Botswana	Jordan	Romania
Burkina Faso	Kuwait	Russian Federation
Cameroon	Kyrgyzstan	Saudi Arabia
Chile	Libya	Senegal
China	Malaysia	Spain
Congo	Maldives	Switzerland
Costa Rica	Mauritania	Thailand
Cuba	Mauritius	Uganda
Czech Republic	Mexico	United States of America
Djibouti	Nigeria	Uruguay
Ecuador	Peru	

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Afghanistan	Côte d'Ivoire	Ireland
Albania	Croatia	Israel
Algeria	Cyprus	Japan
Andorra	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Kenya
Armenia	Denmark	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Australia	Egypt	Latvia
Azerbaijan	Equatorial Guinea	Lebanon
Bahrain	Estonia	Liechtenstein
Belarus	Ethiopia	Lithuania
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Finland	Luxembourg
Bosnia and Herzegovina	France	Madagascar
Brazil	Germany	Malta
Brunei Darussalam	Ghana	Monaco
Bulgaria	Greece	Morocco
Cambodia	Haiti	Myanmar
Canada	Honduras	Namibia
Chad	Iceland	Nepal
Colombia	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Netherlands
	Iraq	New Zealand

Oman	Slovenia	Turkey
Pakistan	Solomon Islands	Turkmenistan
Palau	South Africa	United Arab Emirates
Paraguay	South Sudan	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Republic of Korea	Sri Lanka	Uzbekistan
Rwanda	Sudan	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Suriname	Viet Nam
Seychelles	Sweden	Yemen
Sierra Leone	Syrian Arab Republic	Zimbabwe
Singapore	Tajikistan	
Slovakia	Timor-Leste	
	Tunisia	

Non-Member States represented by observers

Holy See

Other observers

Palestine

United Nations

Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
United Nations Children's Fund

Specialized agencies and related organizations

International Labour Organization
World Health Organization

Intergovernmental organizations

European Union
Council of Europe
International Organization of la Francophonie
Organization of Islamic Cooperation
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Other entities

Sovereign Military Order of Malta

National human rights institutions

Australian Human Rights Commission
National Council for Human Rights of Morocco
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain

Public Defender of Human Rights in Georgia
 German Institute for Human Rights
 Kenya Human Rights Commission
 French Commission on Human Rights
 International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions
 South Africa Human Rights Commission (by video message)
 National Human Rights Commission of Mexico (by video message)
 National Human Rights Institution of Timor-Leste (by video message)

Non-governmental organizations

Action Canada for Population and Development	Canners International Permanent Committee
Action internationale pour la paix et le développement dans la région des Grands Lacs	Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities)
African Association of Education for Development	Center for Environmental and Management Studies
African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters	Center for Inquiry
African Technology Development Link	Center for Reproductive Rights, Inc.
African-American Society for Humanitarian Aid and Development	Centre for Human Rights and Peace Advocacy
Agence internationale pour le développement	Centrist Democratic International
Al Zubair Charitable Foundation	Centro Regional de Derechos Humanos y Justicia de Género
Al-Hakim Foundation	Charitable Institute for Protecting Social Victims
Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man	Child Helpline International
All-Russian Society of the Deaf	China Association for Preservation and Development of Tibetan Culture
American Association of Jurists	China NGO Network for International Exchanges
American Civil Liberties Union	Christian Action Research and Education
Amman Center for Human Rights Studies	CIVICUS – World Alliance for Citizen Participation
Amnesty International	Colombian Commission of Jurists
Arab Lawyers Union	Comité international pour le respect et l'application de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples
Arab NGO Network for Development	Commission of the Churches on International Affairs of the World Council of Churches
Arab Organization for Human Rights	Commission to Study the Organization of Peace
Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development	Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent De Paul
Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network	Conectas Direitos Humanos
Asian Legal Resource Centre	Consortium for Street Children
Association Apprentissage Sans Frontières	Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations
Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII	Defence for Children International
Association for Progressive Communications	Democracy Coalition Project
Association for the Prevention of Torture	Development Innovations and Networks
B'nai B'rith	
BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights	
Baha'i International Community	
Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies	
Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network	

Dominicans for Justice and Peace –
 Order of Preachers
 European Centre for Law and Justice
 European Disability Forum
 European Law Students' Association
 European Region of the International
 Lesbian and Gay Federation
 European Union of Jewish Students
 European Union of Public Relations
 European Women's Lobby
 Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa
 y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos
 Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen
 tot Integratie Van Homoseksualiteit –
 COC Nederland
 Femmes Africa Solidarité
 Foodfirst Information and Action Network
 France Libertés : Fondation Danielle
 Mitterrand
 Franciscans International
 Fraternité Notre Dame, Inc.
 Freedom House
 Friedrich Ebert Foundation
 Friends World Committee for Consultation
 Front Line – International Foundation for
 the Protection of Human Rights
 Defenders
 General Arab Women Federation
 Geneva for Human Rights
 Geneva International Model United Nations
 German Catholic Bishops' Organisation
 for Development Cooperation
 Good Neighbors International
 Green Motherland
 HelpAge International
 Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights
 Himalayan Research and Cultural
 Foundation
 HOPE International
 Human Rights Advocates, Inc.
 Human Rights First
 Human Rights House Foundation
 Human Rights Information and
 Documentation Systems International
 Human Rights Watch
 Independent Centre for Research and
 Initiative for Dialogue
 Indian Council of Education
 Indian Council of South America
 Institute for Planetary Synthesis
 Institute for Women's Studies and Research
 International Association for Democracy
 in Africa
 International Association for Religious
 Freedom
 International Association of Democratic
 Lawyers
 International Association of Jewish
 Lawyers and Jurists
 International Association of Peace
 Messenger Cities
 International Association of Schools of
 Social Work
 International Bridges to Justice
 International Buddhist Foundation
 International Buddhist Relief Organisation
 International Catholic Child Bureau
 International Commission of Jurists
 International Committee for the Indians
 of the Americas (Switzerland)
 International Educational Development,
 Inc.
 International Federation for Human Rights
 Leagues
 International Federation of Journalists
 International Federation Terre Des Hommes
 International Fellowship of Reconciliation
 International Gay and Lesbian Human
 Rights Commission
 International Human Rights Association
 of American Minorities
 International Humanist and Ethical Union
 International Institute for Non-Aligned
 Studies
 International Institute for Peace
 International Institute of Mary Our Help
 of the Salesians of Don Bosco
 International Islamic Federation of Student
 Organizations
 International Lesbian and Gay Association
 International Movement against All Forms
 of Discrimination and Racism
 International Movement ATD Fourth World
 International Organization for the
 Development of Freedom of Education
 International Organization for the
 Elimination of All Forms of Racial
 Discrimination
 International Peace Bureau
 International Rescue Committee, Inc.
 International Service for Human Rights
 International Society for Human Rights
 International Union of Notaries
 International Volunteerism Organization
 for Women, Education and Development

International Youth and Student Movement
 for the United Nations
 Internet Society
 Iranian Elite Research Center
 Islamic Human Rights Commission
 Islamic Women's Institute of Iran
 Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human
 Rights
 Japanese Workers' Committee for Human
 Rights
 Jubilee Campaign
 Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims
 of Torture
 Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada
 Liberal International (World Liberal Union)
 Liberation
 Ligue internationale contre le racisme et
 l'antisémitisme
 Lutheran World Federation
 Maarij Foundation for Peace and
 Development
 Madre, Inc.
 Mandat International
 Medical Care Development International
 MINBYUN – Lawyers for a Democratic
 Society
 Mouvement contre le racisme et l'amitié
 entre les peuples
 Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation)
 National Association for the Advancement
 of Colored People
 Nonviolent Radical Party transnational
 and transparty
 Nord-Sud XXI
 Norwegian Refugee Council
 Organisation pour la communication en
 Afrique et de promotion de la
 coopération économique internationale
 Organization for Defending Victims of
 Violence
 Pax Romana
 Penal Reform International
 People's Solidarity for Participatory
 Democracy
 Permanent Assembly for Human Rights
 Physicians for Human Rights
 Plan International, Inc.
 Planetary Association for Clean Energy,
 Inc.
 Press Emblem Campaign
 Public Organization of Persons with
 Disabilities
 Regional Center for Human Rights and
 Gender Justice "Corporacion Humanas"
 Rencontre africaine pour la défense des
 droits de l'homme
 Reporters Without Borders
 Save a Child's Heart
 Save the Children International
 Servas International
 Social Service Agency of the Protestant
 Church in Germany
 Society for Threatened Peoples
 Soka Gakkai International
 Sudan Council of Voluntary Agencies
 The Charitable Institute for Protecting
 Social Victims
 Touro Law Center, Institute on Human
 Rights and the Holocaust
 Union of Arab Jurists
 United Nations Association of China
 United Nations Watch
 United Schools International
 United Towns Agency for North-South
 Cooperation
 Universal Esperanto Association
 Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik
 VIVAT International
 Women's Federation for World Peace
 Women's Human Rights International
 Association
 Women's International League for Peace
 and Freedom
 Women's World Summit Foundation
 World Environment and Resources Council
 World Federation of Trade Unions
 World Federation of United Nations
 Associations
 World Muslim Congress
 World Organisation against Torture
 World Russian People's Council
 World Student Christian Federation
 World Vision International
 World Young Women's Christian
 Association

Annex II

Agenda

- Item 1 Organizational and procedural matters
- Item 2 Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General
- Item 3 Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development
- Item 4 Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
- Item 5 Human rights bodies and mechanisms
- Item 6 Universal periodic review
- Item 7 Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories
- Item 8 Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- Item 9 Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up to and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- Item 10 Technical assistance and capacity-building

Annex III

[English, French and Spanish only]

Documents issued for the nineteenth session

Documents issued in the general series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/19/1	1	Annotations to the agenda for the nineteenth session of the Human Rights Council
A/HRC/19/1/Corr.1	1	Corrigendum
A/HRC/19/1/Corr.2	1	Corrigendum
A/HRC/19/2	1	Report of the Human Rights Council on its nineteenth session
A/HRC/19/3	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Tajikistan
A/HRC/19/3/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/3/Add.1/Corr.1		Corrigendum
A/HRC/19/4	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on the United Republic of Tanzania
A/HRC/19/5	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Antigua and Barbuda
A/HRC/19/6	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Swaziland
A/HRC/19/6/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/7	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Trinidad and Tobago
A/HRC/19/7/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/8	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Thailand
A/HRC/19/8/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/9	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Ireland
A/HRC/19/9/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/10	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Togo
A/HRC/19/10/Add.1	6	Addendum

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A/HRC/19/12	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
A/HRC/19/12/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/13	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Iceland
A/HRC/19/13/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/14	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Zimbabwe
A/HRC/19/15	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Lithuania
A/HRC/19/15/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/16	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Uganda
A/HRC/19/17	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Timor-Leste
A/HRC/19/18	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on the Republic of Moldova
A/HRC/19/18/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/19	6	Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review on Haiti
A/HRC/19/19/Add.1	6	Addendum
A/HRC/19/20	2, 7	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1
A/HRC/19/21	2	Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/21/Add.1	2	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of her office in Guatemala
A/HRC/19/21/Add.2	2	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities of her office in Bolivia (Plurinational State of)

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A/HRC/19/21/Add.4	2 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the human rights situation and the activities of her office, including technical cooperation, in Nepal
A/HRC/19/22	2 Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the question of human rights in Cyprus
A/HRC/19/23	2 Conclusions and recommendations of special procedures: report of the Secretary-General
A/HRC/19/24	2 Composition of the staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/25	2, 6 Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for participation in the universal periodic review: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/19/26	2 Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture
A/HRC/19/27	2, 3 Rights of Persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/28	2 Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement resolution 9/8 and on obstacles to its implementation, including recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of, harmonizing and reforming the treaty body system
A/HRC/19/29	2 Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment: note by the Secretary-General
A/HRC/19/30	2 Report of the United Nations Entity for the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women: note by the Secretary-General

Documents issued in the general series

<i>Symbol</i>		<i>Agenda item</i>
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A/HRC/19/32	2, 3	Analytical compilation of the submissions received in writing and made at the consultation on the progress report on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights: report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/33	2, 3	Thematic study of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, including recommendations on actions aimed at ending such measures
A/HRC/19/34	2, 3	Analytical study on the relationship between human rights and the environment: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/34/Corr.1		Corrigendum
A/HRC/19/35	2, 3	Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human on the protection and promotion of the rights of children working and/or living on the street
A/HRC/19/36	2, 3	Thematic study by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities
A/HRC/19/37	2, 3	The protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS): report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/38	2, 3	Summary of the Human Rights Council panel discussion on the issue of human rights of victims of terrorism: report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
A/HRC/19/39	2, 3	Summary of the panel discussion of the Human Rights Council on the theme: "The way forward in the realization of the right to development: between policy and practice": report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documents issued in the general series

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A/HRC/19/NGO/3	4 Written statement submitted by the Khiam Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/4	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/5	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/6	4 Written statement submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/7	5 Written statement submitted by Liberation, a non-governmental organization on the roster
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A/HRC/19/NGO/12	4 Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/13	3 Written statement submitted by Reporters Sans Frontières International – Reporters Without Borders International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/14	6 Written statement submitted by the Society Studies Centre, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/15	3 Written statement submitted by the Human Rights Advocates, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/16	4 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/17	3 Written statement submitted by the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/18	4 <i>Idem</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/19	3 Written statement submitted by Human Rights Advocates, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/19/NGO/27	9 Written statement submitted by Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/28	7 Joint written statement submitted by the Women's International Democratic Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and the Federation of Cuban Women, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/29	4 Joint written statement submitted by France Libertés – Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, the Women's Human Rights International Association, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, International Educational Development, Inc., and Mouvement contre le racisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples, non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/30	3 Written statement submitted by the International Federation Terre des Hommes, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/31	3 Written statement submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/19/NGO/35	4 Joint written statement submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party transnational and transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/19/NGO/42	3 Written statement submitted by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/43	2 Joint written statement submitted by Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), New Humanity, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status and Association Points-Coeur, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, the Company of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, the Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers, the International Organization for the Right to Education and Freedom of Education (OIDEI), and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status

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A/HRC/19/NGO/46	3 Written statement submitted by the Asian Legal Resource Centre, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
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A/HRC/19/NGO/49	3 Idem
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A/HRC/19/NGO/52	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/53	4 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/54	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/55	4 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/56	4 Written statement submitted by the Jubilee Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/57	4 Written statement submitted by the Nonviolent Radical Party transnational and transparty, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

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A/HRC/19/NGO/60	4 Written statement submitted by the Maarij Foundation for Peace and Development (MFPD), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/61	3 Written statement submitted by the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/62	3 Written statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/63	3 Joint written statement submitted by Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and Association Points-Coeur, Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII, Dominicans for Justice and Peace – Order of Preachers, the International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development – VIDES, Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliarice delle Salesiane di Don Bosco, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/64	4 Written statement submitted by the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/65	3 Written statement submitted by Verein Sudwind Entwicklungspolitik, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/66	3 Written statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/67	7 Written statement submitted by the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

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A/HRC/19/NGO/70	7 Joint written statement submitted by Al-Haq, Law in the Service of Man, the Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights, the BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights and the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/71	3 Written statement submitted by Fondation Danielle Mitterrand – France Libertés, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/72	3 Joint written statement submitted by France Libertés – Fondation Danielle Mitterrand, the American Association of Jurists and the Society for Threatened Peoples, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and Survival International, Mouvement contre le racismisme et pour l'amitié entre les peuples and International Educational Development, Inc., non-governmental organizations on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/73	2 Written statement submitted by the International Commission of Jurists, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/19/NGO/75	3 Written statement submitted by Defence for Children International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
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A/HRC/19/NGO/78	6 Written statement submitted by the International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/79	3 Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/80	3 Written statement submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/81	6 Written statement submitted by the International Federation of ACAT (Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/82	3 Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/83	3 Exposé écrit présenté par Reporters Sans Frontières International, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/19/NGO/84	3 Joint written statement submitted by Franciscans International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, and the Marist International Solidarity Foundation – ONLUS, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/85	3 Written statement submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/86	4 Written statement submitted by the Human Rights House Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/87	3 Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/88	3 Written statement submitted by Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/89	3 Written statement submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/90	3 Written statement submitted by the Press Emblem Campaign, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/91	6 Written statement submitted by the International Planned Parenthood Federation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/92	4 Joint written statement submitted by the Human Rights House Foundation, BABE (Be Active, Be Emancipated) and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/93	3 Exposé écrit présenté par Defence for Children International, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/19/NGO/94	6 Joint written statement submitted by CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, the Center for Economic and Social Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status, and the Arab NGO Network for Development, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/95	3 Written statement submitted by Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/96	4 Written statement submitted by Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/19/NGO/97	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/98	3	Written statement submitted by the Consortium for Street Children, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/99	4	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/100	3	Written statement submitted by Plan International, Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/101	4	Written statement submitted by the International Centre against Censorship, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/102	3	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/103	3	Written statement submitted by the World Organisation against Torture, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/104	4	Written statement submitted by International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/105	7	Written statement submitted by the Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/106	3	Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/107	4	Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/108	3	Written statement submitted by Liberal International (World Liberal Union), a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/109	3	Written statement submitted by Lawyers Rights Watch Canada, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/110	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/111	3 Joint written statement submitted by the Women's Federation for World Peace International, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status, the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association and the Universal Peace Federation, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/112	4 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/113	3 Written statement submitted by the Society for Threatened Peoples, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/114	3 <i>Idem</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/115	3 <i>Idem</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/116	3 <i>Idem</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/117	3 Written statement submitted by the International Human Rights Association of American Minorities (IHRAAM), a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/118	9 <i>Idem</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/119	3 Exposición escrita presentada por la Permanent Assembly for Human Rights, organización no gubernamental reconocida como entidad consultiva especial
A/HRC/19/NGO/120	3 Written statement submitted by the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/121	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/122	3 Written statement submitted by Front Line – the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/123	4 Written statement submitted by the International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/124	3 Written statement submitted by the International Society for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/125	2 Written statement submitted by Nord-Sud XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/126	3 Written statement submitted by the International Association for Religious Freedom, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/127	3 Written statement submitted by the International Association for Religious Freedom, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/128	3 Exposé écrit présenté par Reporters Sans Frontières International, organisation non gouvernementale dotée du statut consultatif spécial
A/HRC/19/NGO/129	3 Written statement submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/130	9 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/131	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/132	3 Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/133	3 Written statement submitted by the International Rescue Committee, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/134	4 Written statement submitted by the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/135	6 Written statement submitted by the International Trade Union Confederation, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/19/NGO/136	2, 4	Joint written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations and the Women's International Democratic Federation, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Nord-Sud XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Asian Women Human Rights Council and Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/137	3	Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/138	3	Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/139	4	Written statement submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/140	7	Joint written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations and the Women's International Democratic Federation, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Nord-Sud XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Asian Women Human Rights Council and Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/19/NGO/141	4 Joint written statement submitted by the General Arab Women Federation, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, Nord-Sud XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation and Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", non-governmental organizations in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/142	3 Joint written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations and the Women's International Democratic Federation, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Nord-Sud XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Asian Women Human Rights Council and Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/143	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/144	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/145	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/146	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/147	3 Idem
A/HRC/19/NGO/148	6 Written statement submitted by the International Federation of Human Rights Leagues, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Documents issued in the non-governmental organization series

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	
A/HRC/19/NGO/149	3, 4	Joint written statement submitted by the International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations and the Women's International Democratic Federation, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status, the International Organization for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Union of Arab Jurists, the Arab Lawyers Union, the General Arab Women Federation, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, Nord-Sud XXI, the United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation, Indian Movement "Tupaj Amaru", the Asian Women Human Rights Council and Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale – OCAPROCE International, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status, and International Educational Development, Inc., a non-governmental organization on the roster
A/HRC/19/NGO/150	8	Written statement submitted by the Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/151	9	Written statement submitted by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/152	3	Written statement submitted by the China Society for Human Rights Studies, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/153	3	Written statement submitted by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges, a non-governmental organization in general consultative status
A/HRC/19/NGO/154	2	Written statement submitted by the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

Documents issued in the national institutions series

<i>Symbol</i>		<i>Agenda item</i>
A/HRC/19/NI/1	3	Information presented by the South African Human Rights Commission: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/19/NI/2	6	Information presented by the Australian Human Rights Commission: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/19/NI/3	3	Information presented by the Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/19/NI/4	6	Information presented by the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon: note by the Secretariat
A/HRC/19/NI/5	6	Idem
A/HRC/19/NI/6	10	Idem
A/HRC/19/NI/7	3	Information presented by the National Human Rights Institution of Timor-Leste: note by the Secretariat

Annex IV

Advisory Committee members and duration of terms of membership

<i>Member</i>	<i>Term expires in</i>
Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann (Nicaragua)	2012
José Antonio Bengoa Cabello (Chile)	2013
Laurence Boisson de Chazournes (France)	2014
Chen Shiqiu (China)	2012
Chung Chinsung (Republic of Korea)	2013
Wolfgang Stefan Heinz (Germany)	2013
Latif Hüseyinov (Azerbaijan)	2014
Alfred Ntunduguru Karokora (Uganda)	2013
Vladimir Kartashkin (Russian Federation)	2013
Obiora Chinedu Okafor (Nigeria)	2014
Anantonia Reyes Prado (Guatemala)	2014
Cecilia Rachel V. Quisumbing (Philippines)	2015
Shigeki Sakamoto (Japan)	2013
Dheerujall Baramlall Seetulsingh (Mauritius)	2014
Ahmer Bilal Soofi (Pakistan)	2014
Halima Embarek Warzazi (Morocco)	2012

<i>Member</i>	<i>Term expires in</i>
Jean Ziegler (Switzerland)	2012
Mona Zulficar (Egypt)	2013

Annex V

Special procedures mandate holders appointed by the Human Rights Council at its nineteenth session

Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantee of non-recurrence

Pablo De Greiff (Colombia)

Expert Mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples

Danfred Titus (South Africa)

Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

Alfred De Zayas (United States of America)

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

Paulo Pinheiro (Brazil)

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan

Mashood Baderin (Nigeria)
