



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-ninth session

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Agenda item 3

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

**Bolivia (Plurinational State of), China, Egypt,\* Pakistan, South Africa,\* Venezuela  
(Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen\*: draft resolution**

### **49/... Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic**

*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 and all other relevant international human rights treaties,

*Recalling also* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the 2005 World Summit Outcome, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas,

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

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

*Recognizing* the full and effective enjoyment and realization of economic, social and cultural rights contributes to addressing inequalities within and among States and ensuring no one is left behind,

*Recognizing also* that inequalities affect the enjoyment and realization of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights including the right to development, and are inconsistent with the core value enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights,

*Recognizing further* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development covers a wide range of issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights and commits to leaving no one

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\* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.



behind, and its implementation contributes to the further promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and reduction of inequalities,

*Welcoming* international, regional and national development initiatives which contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities,

*Deeply concerned* about the unprecedented threat posed to societies worldwide by the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impact on a wide range of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, such as the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing, the rights of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, water and sanitation, social security, education and work, which shone a light on the structural consequences of decades of underfunded or dismantled public services and policies related to economic and social rights,

*Gravely concerned* that the COVID-19 pandemic has drastically exacerbated existing inequalities within and among States, with hard-won development gains reversed, global poverty increased, and those in vulnerable and marginalized situations disproportionately bearing the brunt from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Deeply concerned* about the impacts of COVID-19 on women and girls in all contexts, exacerbating existing inequalities, with a risk of reversing the progress that has been made on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Stressing* the urgent need to mitigate and tackle the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the enjoyment and realization of economic, social and cultural rights, especially the poor and those in vulnerable and marginalized situations, and to address the exacerbated inequalities,

*Recalling* the obligations and commitments of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights 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 economic, social and cultural rights without discrimination of any kind, by all appropriate means,

*Emphasizing* the crucial importance to strengthen international assistance and cooperation in support of national efforts of States, in particular developing and least-developed States, including through provision of technical assistance and capacity building upon their request, with a view to ensuring promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights in all countries and addressing inequalities within and among States in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Recalling* that international cooperation for development and for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights requires the active commitment of all States, particularly those in a position to assist others in this regard,

*Emphasizing* the important role and contribution of civil society in promoting and advocating the realization of economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Recalling also* that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is mandated to, inter alia, promote and protect the effective enjoyment by all of all human rights, including the economic, social and cultural rights,

*Acknowledging* the active contribution of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, as well as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and relevant mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, in mobilizing international solidarity and assistance to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights, and address inequalities, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Welcoming* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for putting the combat against inequalities at the core of its work and appreciating its commitment to further expand its work for the realization and enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights,

*Noting* that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, including its field offices, needs more financial and human resources to carry out its mandated activities to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights and address inequalities,

1. *Stresses* the importance of promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities within and among States in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

2. *Emphasizes* that States have the obligation and commitments to use their maximum available resources to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights in responding effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and other global challenges, including to provide adequate investments, in accordance with the organization and resources of each State and its national legislation, in public health systems, education, social protection, decent work, housing, food, water and sanitation systems;

3. *Emphasizes also* that States need to enhance their ongoing efforts in order to create conditions conducive to the enjoyment and realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including through mobilizing resources towards the full and equal enjoyment of these rights and avoiding any further economic burden on those in marginalized or vulnerable situations;

4. *Stresses* that it is essential to scale up international cooperation to support developing and least-developed countries and those in marginalized and vulnerable situations who are disproportionately bearing the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic, to ensure that everyone everywhere have access to essential services, resources and social protection, as part of the global response and recovery efforts based on unity, solidarity, multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind;

5. *Calls* for enhanced international solidarity in the COVID-19 response and recovery, including joint and concerted response and recovery efforts that are people-centred, gender-sensitive, inclusive and with full respect for human rights, and actions supporting the timely, equitable and unhindered access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics, and other health products and technologies necessary;

6. *Encourages* international financial institutions as appropriate to refrain from imposing austerity policies and programmes that may impede enjoyment and realization of economic, social and cultural rights and in this regard encourages the enhanced provision of concessional loans, assistance and support to programmes related to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights;

7. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council, the United Nations development system, international financial institutions, regional organizations and other stakeholders, as appropriate and within their respective mandate, to take into consideration the needs of States, especially in developing and least-developed countries, to better promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights, address inequalities, implement 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and promote the well-being of all human beings in their relevant strategies and policies;

8. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to enhance its work, within its mandate, in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to effectively assist all countries, to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights and address inequalities in the recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary General of the United Nations and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take steps to ensure that necessary financial and human resources are allocated for fulfilling the Office's mandate related to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities;

10. *Encourages* States to come forward and make more voluntary contributions to the Office of the High Commissioner for its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities;

11. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to guide its research and set its priorities on economic, social and cultural rights taking into consideration relevant resolutions and decisions of the Human Rights Council, with due regard to the fulfillment of the obligations of international cooperation, as essential requirements for the realization of these rights;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights with dedicated capacity and the support of specialized experts to prepare a report on the Office's research activities and projects in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities, as well as efforts and progresses the Office has made in improving its capacity in this field, and to present the report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-first session;

13. *Requests* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to convene a three-day workshop before the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council, open to the participation of States, relevant treaty bodies and mandate holders, academia, civil society and other relevant stakeholders, to discuss practical ways to further enhance and strengthen work of the Human Rights Council and the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in promoting and protecting economic, social, and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including through focused advocacy on easing economic burdens, vaccine equity, removal of structural impediments and development of technical assistance programmes aimed at enhancing the capacity building of States, especially developing and least-developed States;

14. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint, in consultation with regional groups, an expert to chair and facilitate the workshop;

15. *Requests also* the High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the expert receives necessary support to fulfill the work;

16. *Request further* the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with dedicated capacity, based on the workshop discussions and proposals presented, and in consultation with the expert, to present the Office's vision for reinforcing its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in a form of a report, for consideration by the Council at its fifty-fourth session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

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

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