



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Fifty-first session

12 September–7 October 2022

Agenda item 6

### Universal periodic review

Albania,\* Argentina, Armenia, Australia,\* Bhutan,\* Brazil, Bulgaria,\* Canada,\* Chile,\* Costa Rica,\* Cyprus,\* Ecuador,\* Estonia,\* Eswatini,\* Fiji,\* Finland, France, Greece,\* Hungary,\* Iceland,\* India, Ireland,\* Italy,\* Latvia,\* Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta,\* Mexico, Montenegro, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway,\* Pakistan, Peru,\* Poland, Portugal,\* Romania,\* Slovakia,\* Slovenia,\* Somalia, South Africa,\* Spain,\* Sweden,\* Switzerland,\* United States of America and Uruguay\*: draft resolution

## 51/... Strengthening the voluntary funds for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Reaffirming* that the universal periodic review is a cooperative mechanism and a State driven process with the full involvement of the country concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007,

*Recalling* its resolution 6/17 of 28 September 2007, establishing the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review,

*Recalling also* the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 of 25 March 2011, in which, inter alia, the strengthening and operationalization of the two voluntary funds are stressed in order to encourage a significant participation of developing countries, particularly least developing countries and small island developing States, in their review, and to provide a source of financial and technical assistance to these countries to implement the recommendations emanating from their review, in consultation with and with the consent of the country concerned,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other human rights instruments,

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Welcoming* the 100 per cent participation of States in the universal periodic review since its inception and the efforts made to implement the recommendations emanating from their review,

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



*Welcoming also* the efforts made by the two voluntary funds to meet fully their respective mandates and the voluntary contributions made by States and other relevant stakeholders to them,

*Acknowledging* the significant and impactful support provided by the funds to States despite various challenges, including that posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,

1. *Reaffirms* the basis, principles and objectives of the universal periodic review as set forth in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1;

2. *Welcomes* the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review;

3. *Recognizes* that the fifteenth anniversary of the two voluntary funds and the upcoming fourth cycle of the universal periodic review offer an important opportunity to reaffirm and take action in ensuring universal participation of all State Members of the United Nations in the universal periodic review and in providing financial and technical support to developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, in the implementation of recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with and with consent of the country concerned;

4. *Decides* to convene, at its fifty-second session, a high-level panel discussion, fully accessible to persons with disabilities, focusing on the achievements, good practices and lessons learned by the two voluntary funds during the implementation of their mandates over the past 15 years, and reflecting on further optimization of the use of these funds to facilitate the participation of developing States, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, in the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, and to support them in the implementation of recommendations emanating from the fourth cycle;

5. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a summary report on the high-level panel discussion on the universal periodic review, and to submit the report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-third session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to further strengthen the regular budget-funded dedicated capacity of the Office of the High Commissioner to implement the mandates of the two voluntary funds, including by scaling up the dedicated capacity of the Universal Periodic Review Branch in each regional office during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review;

7. *Encourages* all States to consider contributing to the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review;

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

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