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Agenda item 70

Promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Third Committee*

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I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2019, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fourth session the item entitled:

“Promotion and protection of human rights:

- “(a) Implementation of human rights instruments;
- “(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- “(c) Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives;
- “(d) Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action”

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item jointly with its sub-items and held a general discussion on item 70 as a whole at its 17th to 36th meetings, from 14 to 18 and 21 to 25 and on 29 October. The Committee considered proposals and took action on the item at its 47th and 49th meetings, on 15 and 18 November. An account of the Committee’s consideration of the proposals under the item is contained in the relevant summary records.¹ An account of the Third Committee’s consideration of the sub-items is contained in the addenda to the present report.

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in five parts, under the symbols [A/74/399](#), [A/74/399/Add.1](#), [A/74/399/Add.2](#), [A/74/399/Add.3](#) and [A/74/399/Add.4](#).

¹ [A/C.3/74/SR.17](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.18](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.19](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.20](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.21](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.22](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.23](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.24](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.25](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.26](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.27](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.28](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.29](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.30](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.31](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.32](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.33](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.34](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.35](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.36](#), [A/C.3/74/SR.47](#) and [A/C.3/74/SR.49](#).



3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

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Promotion and protection of human rights

No documents were submitted.

Item 70 (a)

Implementation of human rights instruments

Report of the Human Rights Committee on its 123rd, 124th and 125th sessions ([A/74/40](#))

Report of the Committee against Torture on its sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions ([A/74/44](#))

Report of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families on its twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions ([A/74/48](#))

Report of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on its seventeenth, eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth sessions ([A/74/55](#))

Report of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances on its fifteenth and sixteenth sessions ([A/74/56](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on accessibility and the status of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto ([A/74/146](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery ([A/74/228](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture ([A/74/233](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment ([A/74/148](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies on their annual meeting ([A/74/256](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Secretary-General on the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([A/74/254](#))

Item 70 (b)

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

Report of the Secretary-General on human rights and cultural diversity ([A/74/212](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ([A/74/213](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities ([A/74/215](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights ([A/74/226](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies ([A/74/227](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief ([A/74/229](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region ([A/74/262](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism ([A/74/270](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the human rights of migrants ([A/74/271](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization ([A/74/285](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity ([A/74/314](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity ([A/74/351](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa ([A/74/460](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence ([A/74/147](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders ([A/74/159](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, on the effective promotion of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities ([A/74/160](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment ([A/74/161](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to development ([A/74/163](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food ([A/74/164](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights ([A/74/165](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health ([A/74/174](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers ([A/74/176](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of 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 ([A/74/178](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences ([A/74/179](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity ([A/74/181](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report 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 ([A/74/183](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity ([A/74/185](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities ([A/74/186](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children ([A/74/189](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism ([A/74/190](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants ([A/74/191](#))

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation ([A/74/197](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises ([A/74/198](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education ([A/74/243](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order ([A/74/245](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights ([A/74/255](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons ([A/74/261](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy ([A/74/277](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions ([A/74/318](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism ([A/74/335](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association ([A/74/349](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the interim report of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief ([A/74/358](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes ([A/74/480](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression ([A/74/486](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights ([A/74/493](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the right to development ([A/74/167](#))

Item 70 (c)

Human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran ([A/74/273](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([A/74/268](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine ([A/74/276](#))

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Myanmar ([A/74/311](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran ([A/74/188](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus ([A/74/196](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea ([A/74/275/Rev.1](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar ([A/74/342](#))

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 ([A/74/507](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the situation of human rights in Somalia ([A/74/166](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar ([A/74/278](#))

Note by the Secretariat on the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi ([A/74/303](#))

Item 70 (d)

Comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights ([A/74/36](#))

4. At the 17th meeting, on 14 October 2019, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, who responded to questions posed

and comments made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Morocco, the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Syrian Arab Republic.

6. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Division for Inclusive Social Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

7. Also at the 17th meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Mexico, Czechia, Maldives, Morocco, Egypt, the Russian Federation, Ireland and Costa Rica.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Maldives, the European Union, Eritrea, Spain, Portugal, China, Costa Rica, Brazil and Algeria.

9. At the 18th meeting, on 14 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee against Torture, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Mexico, the United States of America, South Africa, Liechtenstein, the European Union, the Russian Federation, Denmark, France and China.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Chile and Denmark.

11. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Ireland, Mexico, Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union, Czechia, Indonesia, the United States of America, Switzerland, Cuba, Denmark, the Russian Federation, China, Costa Rica and the Syrian Arab Republic.

12. At the 19th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Spain, the Sudan, Morocco, Mexico, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Iran (Islamic Republic of), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Senegal (also on behalf of the Human Rights/Conflict Prevention Caucus, co-chaired by Germany and Switzerland, and its States members Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Mauritius, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay), Germany, Switzerland, Belarus, Georgia, Luxembourg, Romania, Canada, Liechtenstein, the United Arab Emirates, Peru (also on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, Panama and Paraguay), Argentina, Japan, Ireland, Chile, Pakistan, Italy, Zambia (on behalf of the Group of African States), Qatar, Myanmar, Latvia, Poland, Armenia, Portugal, the European Union, Malaysia, Egypt, Indonesia, Slovenia, Tunisia, the United States of America, Cuba, China, Eritrea, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Mali, Algeria and Costa Rica, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

13. At the 20th meeting, on 15 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity,

who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Cuba and the Russian Federation.

14. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, Czechia, Indonesia, Estonia (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries), Mexico, the United States of America, the European Union, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, Iran (Islamic Republic of), China and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

15. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Mexico, Ireland, France, the United States of America, Australia, Brazil, Slovenia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Colombia, Canada, Belgium, Norway, Czechia, Switzerland, the European Union, Germany, Indonesia, the Russian Federation, Georgia, the Netherlands, China, Cameroon and the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

16. Also at the 20th meeting, the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic made a statement on a point of order.

17. At the 21st meeting, on 16 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the United States of America, Spain, Switzerland, Ireland, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, the Netherlands, Mexico, China and Kazakhstan.

18. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the United States of America, Spain, Liechtenstein, Norway, Peru, the European Union, Maldives, the Russian Federation and Lithuania.

19. Also at the same meeting, the Chair of the Committee informed the Committee that the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights was unable to participate in the meeting. Questions were posed and comments were made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, China, the Syrian Arab Republic, Eritrea and Cuba, for onward transmission to the Special Rapporteur.

20. At the 22nd meeting, on 16 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Pakistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Russian Federation, Cuba and China.

21. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the right to development, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Egypt, Cabo Verde, Zambia (on behalf of the Group of African States), South Africa, the European Union, Eritrea, Djibouti, Maldives, Cuba, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of) and China.

22. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Maldives, the Russian Federation, China and Cuba.
23. At the 23rd meeting, on 17 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of France, the European Union, Morocco, the Russian Federation, Maldives and Japan.
24. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Argentina, the Russian Federation, the European Union, France, the United States of America, Japan, China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.
25. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Belarus, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the European Union, Norway, the United States of America, Poland, Czechia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany and Lithuania.
26. At the 24th meeting, on 17 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Colombia, the European Union, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Libya and Indonesia.
27. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Chile, Switzerland, Greece, the Philippines, Colombia and the Russian Federation.
28. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Hungary, Israel, Ireland, Brazil, Qatar, the European Union, Greece, Poland, Romania, Norway, Germany, the United States of America, Austria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Canada, China, the Russian Federation and Iran (Islamic Republic of).
29. At the 25th meeting, on 18 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the right to education, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Hungary, the European Union, Indonesia, Maldives, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, France, China, Morocco and Algeria.
30. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Kenya, France, Eritrea, China and Morocco.
31. At the 26th meeting, on 18 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Spain (also on behalf of Germany), Algeria, Brazil, China and Maldives.

32. At the same meeting, the Committee also heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Germany, Brazil, the Russian Federation and China.
33. At the 27th meeting, on 21 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Japan, Qatar, the European Union, Luxembourg, Nigeria, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and China.
34. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Italy, Spain, New Zealand, Argentina, Indonesia, Brazil, Switzerland, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries), Mexico, the United States of America, Maldives, the European Union, Ireland, Australia, Algeria, the Republic of Korea, Poland, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China and Morocco.
35. At the 28th meeting, on 21 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, France, the European Union, Canada, Liechtenstein, Lithuania (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries), the United States of America, the Russian Federation, Brazil, Iceland, China, Ukraine and Bahrain.
36. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of China and Cuba.
37. At the 29th meeting, on 22 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Hungary, India, the Russian Federation, the European Union, Liechtenstein, Ukraine, Austria, the United States of America and China.
38. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Maldives, Cuba, the United States of America, Norway and China.
39. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Ghana, Israel, South Africa, Slovenia, Brazil, Japan, the European Union, Somalia, Namibia, Turkey, the United States of America, Angola, Malawi and China.
40. At the 30th meeting, on 22 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Myanmar, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the European Union, Liechtenstein, Ireland, Bangladesh, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Czechia, Norway, France, Luxembourg, Australia, Cuba, Germany, the United States of America, the Republic

of Korea, Maldives, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Burundi, Viet Nam, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, China and Thailand.

41. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Myanmar, the European Union, Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Iceland, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

42. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, the United States of America, Switzerland, Argentina, Czechia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab Republic, Australia, the Russian Federation, Germany, France, Cuba, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Burundi, Norway, Belarus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Viet Nam and China.

43. At the 31st meeting, on 23 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union, Maldives, Malaysia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Norway, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Indonesia and Saudi Arabia, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine.

44. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iceland, Canada, Switzerland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Ireland, the European Union, the United States of America, Germany, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Czechia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, Belarus, Eritrea, Norway, Burundi, the Russian Federation, Japan and Pakistan.

45. Also at the same meeting, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement on a point of order.

46. At the 32nd meeting, on 23 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Myanmar, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Myanmar, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union, Switzerland, Canada, Liechtenstein, Indonesia, Germany, the United States of America, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia and Thailand.

47. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi. Following the introductory statement, a member of the Commission of Inquiry responded, on behalf of the Chair of the Commission, to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Burundi, Morocco, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Gabon (also on behalf of Angola, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Equatorial Guinea), the European Union, Nicaragua, India, Norway, Djibouti, the Russian

Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Czechia, Cameroon, Germany, Cuba, China, Eritrea, Kenya and Iran (Islamic Republic of).

48. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Djibouti, the United States of America, Norway, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union and China.

49. At the 33rd meeting, on 24 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Colombia, Argentina, Ireland, the United States of America, France, the European Union, Switzerland (also on behalf of Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Morocco, Peru and Uruguay), Spain, Belgium, Morocco, El Salvador and China.

50. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Bolivia (Plurinational State of) (on behalf of the LGBTI Core Group), Spain, New Zealand, Ireland, Germany, Iceland, Argentina, Australia, the United States of America, Sweden (on behalf of the Nordic and Baltic countries), Luxembourg, Canada, Georgia, Slovenia, Czechia, the European Union, Israel, Angola, China, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Mexico.

51. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Mexico, Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Australia, Argentina, China, Iceland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

52. At the 34th meeting, on 24 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Slovenia (also on behalf of Costa Rica, Maldives, Morocco and Switzerland), Czechia, the European Union, Liechtenstein, the Russian Federation, Fiji, Brazil, Bahrain and China, as well as by the observer for the State of Palestine and the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.

53. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the European Union, Angola, Brazil, China, Eritrea and Côte d'Ivoire.

54. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), the European Union, Ireland, Norway, Morocco, China, Azerbaijan, Eritrea and Cuba.

55. At the 35th meeting, on 25 October, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Italy, the Philippines, Greece, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom

of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ireland, China, Belarus, Bahrain, Iceland, the United States of America, Qatar, the European Union, Germany, Liechtenstein, Indonesia and Mexico.

56. At the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Australia and China.

57. Also at the same meeting, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, who responded to questions posed and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, Austria, Mali, the European Union, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Norway, China, Armenia, Ukraine, the United States of America, Canada, Georgia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

58. The representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and Iran (Islamic Republic of) made a statement on a point of order.

59. At the 44th meeting, on 7 November, the representative of the United States of America made a statement with regard to the draft resolutions before the Committee.²

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.33/Rev.1](#)

60. At its 49th meeting, on 18 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation” ([A/C.3/74/L.33/Rev.1](#)), which was submitted by Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay. Subsequently, Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Chad, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Haiti, Kiribati, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mali, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

61. At the same meeting, the representative of Germany made a statement also on behalf of Spain.

62. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.33/Rev.1](#) (see para. 68, draft resolution I).

² See [A/C.3/74/SR.44](#).

63. After the adoption, the representative of the United States of America and the representative of Argentina made statements.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.49](#)

64. At its 47th meeting, on 15 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled “International Equal Pay Day” ([A/C.3/74/L.49](#)), submitted by Argentina, Australia, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Mexico, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and Ukraine.

65. At the same meeting, the representative of Iceland made a statement and orally revised preambular paragraphs 5, 6 and 7, as well as operative paragraphs 2 and 3, of the draft resolution.

66. Subsequently, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

67. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.3/74/L.49](#), as orally revised (see para. 68, draft resolution II).

68. Before the adoption, a statement was made by the representative of the United States of America. After the adoption, statements were made by the representative of Finland (on behalf of the European Union and its member States) and the representative of the Philippines.

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

69. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

The General Assembly,

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

Recalling its resolutions [64/292](#) of 28 July 2010, in which it recognized the right to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation as a human right that is essential for the full enjoyment of life and all human rights, and [70/169](#) of 17 December 2015, entitled “The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation”,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions of the Human Rights Council regarding the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, inter alia, Council resolution [39/8](#) of 27 September 2018,¹

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,³ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,⁴ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁷

Recalling also that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation are derived from the right to an adequate standard of living and are inextricably related to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, as well as to the right to life and human dignity,

Noting general comment No. [15 \(2002\)](#) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to water (articles 11 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights)⁸ and the statement on the right to sanitation of the Committee of 19 November 2010,⁹ as well as taking note of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

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

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

² Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

³ See resolution [2200 A \(XXI\)](#), annex.

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁸ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 2 (E/2003/22)*, annex IV.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 2011, *Supplement No. 2 (E/2011/22)*, annex VI.

Recalling the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development¹⁰ and outcome documents of review conferences, reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,¹¹ the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly¹² and the declarations adopted by the Commission on the occasion of the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women¹³ and looking forward to its upcoming twenty-fifth anniversary,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” for the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, ensuring that no one is left behind and stressing the importance of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling its resolution 71/222 of 21 December 2016, by which it proclaimed the period 2018–2028 the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”,

Stressing the importance of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including the Goal on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,

Recalling the designation, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 47/193 of 22 December 1992 and 67/291 of 24 July 2013, of 22 March as World Water Day and 19 November as World Toilet Day, which are important opportunities to promote, among other issues, awareness of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and of the remaining challenges in this regard,

Recalling also the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development¹⁴ of June 1992 and its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, entitled “The future we want”, and emphasizing the critical importance of water and sanitation within the three dimensions of sustainable development,

Taking note of the relevant commitments and initiatives promoting the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation made at recent regional and subregional conferences and meetings,

Affirming the importance of continually improving the availability of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data on progress related to safe drinking water and sanitation services as an indispensable means for States to plan for, implement and monitor the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all without discrimination,

Welcoming the work of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Children’s Fund in the 2019 update published by their Joint Monitoring Programme

¹⁰ *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹¹ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹² Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

¹³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and E/2005/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; *ibid.*, 2010, *Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2010/27 and E/2010/27/Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; and *ibid.*, 2015, *Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C, resolution 59/1, annex.

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

for Water Supply and Sanitation on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene,¹⁵ and noting the fact that it has an extensive global database and has developed global norms to benchmark progress, while taking into consideration the fact that official figures very often do not fully capture all the dimensions of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Taking note of the fact that, globally, between 2000 and 2017, according to the Joint Monitoring Programme, the percentage of the population using safely managed drinking water increased from 61 per cent to 71 per cent and the percentage of the population using basic drinking water services decreased from 20 per cent to 19 per cent, and welcoming the fact that the percentage of the population using safely managed sanitation services increased from 28 per cent to 45 per cent and the percentage of the population using basic sanitation services increased from 28 per cent to 29 per cent,

Deeply concerned that, almost 10 years after the adoption of resolution 64/292, 785 million people still lack basic drinking water services and 144 million people still collect water directly from surface water sources, representing a combined 11 per cent of the world population, while 2 billion people still lack basic sanitation services and 673 million people still practise open defecation, representing a combined 26 per cent of the world population,

Deeply concerned also about the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services and its dramatic consequences for the overall health situation in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of conflict and natural disaster, and acknowledging that people living in countries affected by armed conflict and natural disasters and in countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as well as people living in refugee camps, including in refugee host countries, are more likely to lack access to basic drinking water and to basic sanitation than people living in unaffected countries,

Deeply concerned further that women and girls often face, especially in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, particular barriers in accessing water and sanitation, as well as menstrual hygiene management, and that they shoulder the main burden of collecting household water and of care responsibilities, including those arising from waterborne diseases, in many parts of the world, restricting their time for other activities, such as education and leisure, or, for women, for earning a livelihood,

Deeply alarmed that water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases hit children the hardest, while noting that child diarrhoea is the second leading cause of death in children under 5 years old, and underscoring that progress on reducing child mortality, morbidity and stunting is linked to children's and women's access to safe drinking water and sanitation and that, in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, children suffer the most from interruptions in water and sanitation services,

Deeply concerned that persons with disabilities, especially children, often face barriers in accessing water and sanitation facilities that are accessible and appropriate to their needs, which impacts on their ability to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, including education and employment, which is particularly concerning in the situation of homelessness, as well as in humanitarian emergencies and crises,

¹⁵ World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Special Focus on Inequalities. 2019 updates and SDG baselines* (Geneva, 2019).

Deeply alarmed by indiscriminate attacks and attacks deliberately targeting civilian objects in armed conflict, which may injure personnel and cut off the power that keeps water, sanitation and hygiene systems running,

Deeply concerned that widespread silence and stigma surrounding menstruation and menstrual hygiene mean that women and girls often lack basic information and education thereon, are excluded and stigmatized, that their health can be negatively impacted, and that they are thus prevented from realizing their full potential,

Deeply concerned also that the lack of access to adequate water and sanitation services, including for menstrual hygiene management, especially in schools, workplaces, health centres and public facilities, negatively affects gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and their enjoyment of human rights, including the right to education and the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and recognizing that women have specific hygiene needs during menstruation, pregnancy, childbearing and rearing and throughout the life course,

Deeply concerned further that women and girls are particularly at risk and exposed to attacks, sexual and gender-based violence, harassment and other threats to their safety while collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or, when lacking adequate sanitation facilities, practising open defecation and urination, limiting their ability to move freely and safely in the public sphere,

Deeply concerned that non-existent or inadequate sanitation facilities and serious deficiencies in water management and wastewater treatment can negatively affect water provision and sustainable access to safe drinking water and that, according to the annual United Nations World Water Development Report, over 80 per cent of the world's wastewater, and over 95 per cent in some developing countries, is released into the environment without treatment,

Affirming the importance of regional and international cooperation, where appropriate, as a means to promote the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, with the understanding that it has no bearing on the issues of international water law, including international watercourse law,

Expressing concern that climate change has contributed and continues to contribute to the increased frequency and intensity of both sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events, and that these events have adverse effects on the full enjoyment of all human rights, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and recalling the need to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change,

Recognizing that, while the implications of climate change-related impacts and environmental damage for the enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation affect individuals and communities around the world, the consequences are felt most acutely by those segments of the population that are already in vulnerable situations, such as people living in informal settlements, people living in small island States and rural and local communities, and recognizing also that indigenous peoples, because of their specific situation and nature, may be among the first to face the direct consequences of climate change owing to their dependence upon and close relationship with the environment and its resources,

1. *Reaffirms* that the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as components of the right to an adequate standard of living, are essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and all human rights;

2. *Recognizes* that the human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use, and that the human right to sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity, while reaffirming that both rights are components of the right to an adequate standard of living;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and takes note of his reports;

4. *Reaffirms* that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and to endeavour to take steps, individually and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical cooperation, to the maximum of their available resources, with a view to progressively achieving the full realization of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including, in particular, the adoption of legislative measures;

5. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To ensure the progressive realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all in a non-discriminatory manner while eliminating inequalities in access, including for individuals belonging to groups at risk and those who are marginalized on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any other grounds;

(b) To implement the internationally agreed Sustainable Development Goals and targets,¹⁶ including the Goal on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, consistent with their obligations under international law;

(c) To take into consideration the New Urban Agenda,¹⁷ which envisages cities and human settlements that fulfil their social function, the full realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, without discrimination, and universal access to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation;

(d) To ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all women and girls, as well as for menstrual hygiene management, including for hygiene facilities and services in public and private spaces;

(e) To take measures to empower women and girls for preparedness in humanitarian emergencies and crises, including in times of armed conflict or natural disaster, by ensuring access to water and sanitation services and implementing gender-responsive policies, plans and programmes that address, inter alia, effective menstrual hygiene management and adequate disposal options for menstrual products, without compromising their safety and dignity;

(f) To address the widespread stigma and shame surrounding menstruation and menstrual hygiene by promoting educational and health practices in order to foster a culture in which menstruation is recognized as healthy and natural and by ensuring access to factual information thereon, including for men and boys,

¹⁶ See resolution 70/1.

¹⁷ Resolution 71/256, annex.

addressing the negative social norms around the issue, as well as ensuring universal access to hygienic products and gender-sensitive facilities, including disposal and waste management options for menstrual products, while recognizing that women's and girls' attendance at school, university or, for women, work, can be affected by negative perceptions of menstruation and lack of means to maintain personal hygiene, such as safe water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in schools, public places and, for women, the workplace;

(g) To promote both women's leadership and their full, effective and equal participation in decision-making on water and sanitation management and to ensure that a gender-based approach is adopted in relation to water and sanitation programmes;

(h) To reduce the time spent by women and girls in collecting household water, in order to address the negative impact of inadequate water and sanitation services on the access of girls to education, including through improved public services and infrastructure;

(i) To promote safe public spaces and improve the security and safety of women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure when accessing sanitation facilities outside their homes or practising open defecation and urination;

(j) To protect women and girls from being physically threatened or assaulted, including from sexual violence, while collecting household water and when accessing sanitation facilities outside their home or practising open defecation and urination, including through promoting safe public spaces and improving the security and safety of women and girls through gender-responsive rural and urban planning and infrastructure;

(k) To progressively eliminate open defecation by adopting policies to increase access to sanitation, including for individuals who are vulnerable or marginalized;

(l) To take steps to promote action to raise international awareness on the issue of water-borne diseases, in particular cholera and child diarrhoea, which can be prevented through safe drinking water and adequate sanitation and hygiene and engaging in partnerships with relevant stakeholders to implement projects aimed at scaling up access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries;

(m) To apply broad and inclusive participatory approaches and consulting and coordinating with local communities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, on adequate solutions to ensure sustainable and non-discriminatory access to safe drinking water and sanitation;

(n) To enhance efforts to substantially reduce the share of untreated wastewater released into the environment and to ensure that plans and programmes for improving sanitation services take into account the need for appropriate systems for the treatment of wastewater produced, including disposal of infant faeces, with the aim of reducing the risks to human health, drinking water resources and the environment;

(o) To identify patterns of failure to respect, protect or fulfil the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all persons without discrimination and to address their structural causes in policymaking and budgeting within a broader framework, while undertaking holistic planning aimed at achieving sustainable universal access, including in instances where the private sector, donors and non-governmental organizations are involved in service provision;

(p) To provide for effective accountability mechanisms for all water and sanitation service providers, including private sector providers, to ensure that they respect human rights and do not cause or contribute to human rights violations or abuses;

6. *Calls upon* States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries upon their request, in particular developing countries, to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all;

7. *Calls upon* non-State actors, including business enterprises, both transnational and others, to comply with their responsibility to respect human rights, including the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, including by cooperating with State investigations into allegations of abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and by progressively engaging with States to detect and remedy abuses of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation;

8. *Stresses* the important role of the international cooperation and technical assistance provided by States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing and implementing development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action related to the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and invites regional and international organizations to complement efforts by States to progressively realize the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation in accordance with their respective mandates;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to enhance global partnerships for sustainable development as a means to achieve and sustain the Goals and the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹⁶ and highlights that the 2030 Agenda marks a paradigm shift towards a more balanced and integrated plan of action for achieving sustainable development that reflects the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights;

11. *Reaffirms* that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, under the auspices of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council, has the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level of the Sustainable Development Goals, and encourages Member States to share their experiences and best practices;

12. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question at its seventy-sixth session.

Draft resolution II International Equal Pay Day

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and also that all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against women and girls, are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,² the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,² the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,³ the Convention on the Rights of the Child,⁴ the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,⁵ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination⁶ and other relevant human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also the commitment made to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women⁷ and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled “Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century”,⁸

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹ addresses the need to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, in order to ensure that no one is left behind, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is crucial,

Recalling also the commitment to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value, contained in the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 8.5,

Noting the work of the Equal Pay International Coalition, which was established to contribute to the achievement of equal pay for work of equal value and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 8.5,

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

Taking note with appreciation of the major contributions made by civil society, including women’s and community-based organizations and feminist groups, as well as businesses and workers’ and employers’ organizations, to promoting equal pay for work of equal value and the economic empowerment of women and girls,

Recognizing that progress on the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls has been held back owing to the persistence of historical and structural unequal power relations between women and men, poverty

¹ Resolution [217 A \(III\)](#).

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

³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

⁷ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

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

⁹ Resolution [70/1](#).

and inequalities and disadvantages in access to resources and opportunities that limit women's and girls' capabilities,

Expressing deep concern that this progress has been particularly slow when it comes to women's economic empowerment, that work traditionally held by women has been undervalued and that tackling pay inequality has proved to be particularly difficult,

Recalling in this regard Human Rights Council resolution 41/14 of 11 July 2019 on equal pay¹⁰ and its recommendation to declare an International Equal Pay Day, in order to celebrate the efforts of all stakeholders to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and urge further action for the goal of equal pay for work of equal value for all,

Reaffirming its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, particularly paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, and paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international day or year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 18 September as International Equal Pay Day, to be observed each year beginning in 2020;

2. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, to observe International Equal Pay Day in an appropriate manner, in order to celebrate the efforts of all stakeholders to achieve equal pay for work of equal value and urge the further action required to achieve the goal of equal pay for work of equal value for all, and encourages all stakeholders to continue to support the goal of equal pay for work of equal value;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Labour Organization, within their respective mandates and existing resources, in collaboration with all relevant organizations already involved in the promotion of equal pay for work of equal value, to work together to facilitate the observance of International Equal Pay Day and to support Member States, upon their request, in observing the Day;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and organizations of the United Nations system;

5. *Stresses* that the cost of all activities that may arise from the implementation of the present resolution shall be met from voluntary contributions.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/74/53)*, chap. II.