

**Human Rights Council****Forty-sixth session**

22 February–24 March 2021

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 23 March 2021****46/13. Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,*Recalling* previous resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on international cooperation in the field of human rights,*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 all human rights derive from the dignity and worth inherent in the human person and that the human person is the central subject of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and consequently should be the principal beneficiary and should participate actively in the realization of these rights and freedoms,*Reaffirming further* that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, all States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, have the duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,*Acknowledging* that the approach of multilateralism and diplomacy could reinforce the advancement of the three pillars of the United Nations, namely, sustainable development, peace and security and human rights, which are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, while observing respective mandates and the Charter, and recognizing the urgent need to promote and strengthen multilateralism,*Emphasizing* the responsibility of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind,*Reaffirming* that the work of the Human Rights Council shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive

international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Considering that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter and international law and based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue, makes an effective and practical contribution to preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms and to strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Deeply concerned about the loss of life and livelihoods and the disruption to economies and societies by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights around the world, and particularly concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic perpetuates and exacerbates existing inequalities and that those most at risk are persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations,

Expressing deep concern at the stigmatization, xenophobia, racism and discrimination, including racial discrimination, surfacing in the COVID-19 pandemic in many parts of the world, as well as hate speech, and stressing the need to combat them,

Emphasizing that genuine dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights should be constructive and based on universality, indivisibility, non-selectivity, non-politicization, equality and mutual respect, with the aim of promoting mutual understanding and constructive cooperation, including through capacity-building and technical cooperation,

Recognizing the importance of technical assistance and capacity-building provided in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned in promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights,

Reiterating the need to further enhance the role of the Human Rights Council in promoting technical assistance and capacity-building, including by exploring the avenues for States, international human rights bodies and mechanisms, relevant international and regional organizations and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, to share their good practices, experiences and expertise in promoting and protecting human rights,

Recognizing the role of the universal periodic review in, inter alia, promoting the universality, interdependence, indivisibility and interrelatedness of all human rights, establishing a cooperative mechanism based on objective and reliable information and on interactive dialogue and ensuring universal coverage and equal treatment of all States in contributing to the promotion and protection of human rights and mutually beneficial cooperation,

Recognizing also 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 and facilitate building a community of shared future for human beings in which human rights are enjoyed by all,

1. *Calls upon* all States to uphold multilateralism and to work together to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights, and encourages other stakeholders, including international and regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, to contribute actively to this endeavour;

2. *Calls upon* all States and other stakeholders to undertake constructive and genuine dialogue and cooperation in the field of human rights, based on universality, impartiality, objectivity, indivisibility, non-selectivity, non-politicization, equality and mutual respect;

3. *Reiterates* the important role of technical assistance and capacity-building in promoting and protecting human rights, calls upon States to strengthen human rights technical assistance and capacity-building through mutually beneficial cooperation, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned, and welcomes in this regard North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of the universal periodic review as a mechanism based on cooperation and constructive dialogue with the objective of, inter alia, improving the situation of human rights on the ground and promoting the fulfilment of the human rights obligations and commitments undertaken by States, and calls upon all States and relevant stakeholders to participate constructively in it;

5. *Invites* relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutually beneficial cooperation in promoting and protecting all human rights;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment of States to international cooperation, multilateralism and solidarity at all levels and as the only way for the world to effectively respond to global crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and their consequences, while underscoring the central role of the State in responding to pandemics and other health emergencies, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of ensuring that all States have equitable access to safe, effective and affordable medical supplies, medicines and vaccines, in particular ensuring accessibility and affordability of vaccines to developing countries;

7. *Decides* to convene at its forty-ninth session a meeting under item 3 of its agenda, with a duration of two hours, to be presided over by the President of the Human Rights Council, on the theme of enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in promoting and protecting the human rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations in recovery efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, with the participation of States, international organizations and other stakeholders, to share information on good practices and experience, and encourages all stakeholders to take this opportunity to facilitate technical cooperation;

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide all necessary resources for the services and facilities for the above-mentioned meeting, to prepare a summary report on the meeting and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-second session.

*49th meeting
23 March 2021*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 26 to 15, with 6 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Indonesia, Mauritania, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Austria, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, Ukraine and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Abstaining:

Armenia, Bahamas, Fiji, Libya, Malawi and Uzbekistan]