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**Human Rights Council****Forty-ninth session**

28 February–1 April 2022

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 1 April 2022****49/19. 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 the United Nations 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 the realization, through national efforts and international cooperation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his or her dignity and the free development of his or her personality,**Recognizing that the full and effective enjoyment and realization of economic, social and cultural rights, exercised without discrimination of any kind, contributes to addressing inequalities within and among States and ensuring that 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*

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

*Welcoming* international, regional and national development initiatives that 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 coronavirus disease (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 has shone a light on the structural consequences of decades of underfunded or dismantled public services and policies related to economic and social rights, as well as on systemic discrimination,

*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 the COVID-19 pandemic 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 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 of strengthening international assistance and cooperation in support of national efforts of States, in particular developing and least-developed States, including through the 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* 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 economic, social and cultural rights,

*Acknowledging* the active contribution of the Office of the High Commissioner, 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 to address inequalities, especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic,

*Welcoming* that the Office of the High Commissioner has put 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, 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 to 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 responsibilities 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. *Also emphasizes* 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 by 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 United Nations 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 fulfil their responsibilities to better promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights, address inequalities, implement the 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 to enhance its work, within its mandate, in the field of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to effectively assist all countries in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;

9. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to take steps to ensure that the necessary financial and human resources are allocated for the fulfilment of the Office's mandate related to the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights and to 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 to guide its work 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 fulfilment of the obligations of international cooperation, as essential requirements for the realization of these rights;

12. *Requests* the High Commissioner, with dedicated capacity and the support of specialized experts, to prepare a report on the research activities and projects of the Office of the High Commissioner in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities, as well as on efforts and the progress 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 to convene, before the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council, a three-day workshop, in a hybrid format and fully accessible to persons with disabilities, including with sign language interpretation and webcasts, 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 the work of the Human Rights Council and the Office of High Commissioner in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, including through focused advocacy on easing economic burdens, vaccine equity, the removal of structural impediments and the 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* the High Commissioner to ensure that the expert receives the necessary support to fulfil the work;

16. *Also requests* the High Commissioner, with dedicated capacity based on the workshop discussions and proposals presented, to present the vision of the Office of the High Commissioner 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 the form of a report, for consideration by the Human Rights Council at its fifty-fourth session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

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

*56th meeting  
1 April 2022*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 31 to 14, with 2 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Argentina, Armenia, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Libya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Qatar, Russian Federation, Senegal, Somalia, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Against:*

Finland, France, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America

*Abstaining:*

Mexico, Ukraine]