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**Human Rights Council****Fifty-third session**

19 June–14 July 2023

Agenda item 10

**Technical assistance and capacity-building****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 13 July 2023****53/22. Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in Colombia to implement the recommendations of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,**Recalling* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and other relevant international human rights conventions and instruments,*Recognizing* the commitment of Colombia, as well as of the Latin American and the Caribbean region as a whole, to strive for the consolidation of a permanent peace based on equal rights, economic fairness and social justice for all,*Stressing* that the primary responsibility to respect, protect and fulfil human rights lies with States,*Recognizing* the positive role played by civil society and human rights defenders in the promotion and protection of all human rights for all,*Recognizing also* that the Government of Colombia maintains a policy of cooperation and collaboration with international human rights organizations and entities and that, at the request of the Commission on Human Rights on 23 April 1996, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights established, with the approval of the Government of Colombia, a permanent office in Colombia in 1997, with monitoring and technical assistance functions,*Welcoming* the new host country agreement signed in January 2023 by the Government of Colombia and the High Commissioner, whereby the presence of the office in Colombia is extended until at least 2032,

*Recognizing* the commitment of Colombia to peace through the Final Agreement for Ending the Conflict and Building a Stable and Lasting Peace, signed in November 2016 between the Government of Colombia and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army (FARC-EP), and mindful of the functions given to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the context of the peace agreement, in addition to the Office’s monitoring and technical assistance functions enshrined in the mandate given by the Commission on Human Rights on 23 April 1996 and in the host country agreement signed in January 2023 and based on the mandate of the High Commissioner under General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993,

*Bearing in mind* the importance of the existing structures and mandates from the United Nations system in the country and the need to avoid duplication or the overlapping of their functions and to ensure they are complementary,

*Taking into account* the importance of international support, including from civil society, for the efforts of Colombia to implement fully all provisions of the peace agreement, including through the technical assistance and cooperation of the Office of the High Commissioner,

*Acknowledging* the important work carried out by the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia, whose mandate was established by the Security Council in its resolution 2366 (2017) of 10 July 2017 and extended by resolution 2673 (2023) of 11 January 2023, and duly noting the reference to obstacles to the implementation of the peace agreement contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Verification Mission,<sup>1</sup>

*Acknowledging also* the continued support provided by the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia of the Organization of American States, accompanying peace efforts in the territories most affected by the internal armed conflict, organized crime and inequality,

*Recognizing* the important role played by the host country of the peace talks and the guarantors and accompanying countries of the peace process that began in Oslo on 18 October 2012, and reached a peace agreement with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People’s Army on 12 November 2016 in Havana, as well as the invaluable support of all guarantors and companions in the peace negotiations with the National Liberation Army (ELN),

*Recognizing also* the work carried out by the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repitition to identify and clarify the patterns and causes of human rights violations and grave breaches of international humanitarian law in the context of the armed conflict in Colombia, as well as promoting the recognition of victims and guarantees of non-repetition and contributing to coexistence,

*Emphasizing* the need to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repitition in its final report, published in June 2022, which is a key instrument for the comprehensive fulfilment of the peace agreement,

*Noting* that, in his report on the situation of human rights in Colombia,<sup>2</sup> the High Commissioner reported that violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, displacement and confinement by armed actors in rural areas and in some urban centres, disproportionately affected human rights defenders, environmental activists, social leaders, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, people of African descent, peasant leaders, peace agreement signatories, women and girls, as well as persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity,

*Reaffirming* the vital role that human rights defenders play in speaking for people in the most vulnerable situations, and stressing the importance of assisting the Government in the implementation of policies to protect human rights defenders,

*Stressing* the importance that the Government of Colombia has given to strengthening the rule of law and participatory development in territories affected by violence, notably by

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<sup>1</sup> S/2023/222.

<sup>2</sup> A/HRC/52/25.

strengthening State civilian institutions, combating situations of corruption and collusion, reforming the security sector based on measurable and objective indicators and effectively fostering the coordination of local, regional and national actions to respond to conflict and violence,

*Stressing also* the importance of continuing processes of recognition of responsibility before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace, which are vital for accountability, the fight against impunity and guaranteeing victims' rights and non-repetition,

1. *Requests*, for a renewable period of two years, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide and step up its technical assistance and capacity-building to national and local authorities and other relevant actors with dedicated additional resources to assist Colombia in the implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition, with particular attention dedicated to victims and applying a gender perspective that takes into account ethnic origins and their different needs in the areas of investigations of human rights violations and abuses, breaches of international humanitarian law and corruption, human rights and security sector reform, the protection of social leaders and human rights defenders, and the definition and development of a public policy for a culture of peace;

2. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to present to the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-sixth and fifty-ninth sessions, a report on the subjects mentioned in the previous paragraph, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

3. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to appoint without delay an international human rights expert tasked with identifying and verifying the obstacles to the implementation of the 2016 peace agreement, in particular those announced publicly by the Special Jurisdiction for Peace in March 2023 and mentioned in the quarterly report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia presented to the Security Council on 13 April 2023,<sup>3</sup> and identifying the consequences of these obstacles for the full enjoyment of human rights under international law, as well as the domestic right to peace as enshrined in the Political Constitution of Colombia, and making recommendations that would help to overcome them;

4. *Requests* the international human rights expert designated by the High Commissioner to submit a report to the Human Rights Council, before the end of 2023, and to present it to the Council at its fifty-fifth session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Office of the High Commissioner with all the resources necessary to provide such technical assistance and to implement the present resolution;

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

36th meeting  
13 July 2023

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 28 to 0, with 19 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Argentina, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechia, Eritrea, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Honduras, India, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Paraguay, Romania, South Africa, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Viet Nam

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bangladesh, Cameroon, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Pakistan, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan]

<sup>3</sup> S/2023/222.