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**Human Rights Council****Fifty-fourth session**

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 10

**Technical assistance and capacity-building****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council  
on 12 October 2023****54/30. Penitentiary system, security and justice: enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building to protect human rights in Honduras***The Human Rights Council,**Guided* by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,*Guided also* by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and other relevant international human rights instruments and conventions,*Stressing* that the responsibility to respect and protect human rights lies with States,*Recalling* all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights,*Reaffirming* the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (the Beijing Rules) and the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty,*Considering* the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the situation of human right in Honduras, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, which was presented to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-second session,<sup>1</sup>*Recognizing* that the High Commissioner established a permanent office in Honduras in 2015 with a mandate to provide technical assistance to the national authorities and to monitor the evolution of the situation of human rights in the country,

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/52/24.

*Acknowledging* the policy of cooperation and collaboration of the Government of Honduras with all human rights monitoring mechanisms, based on the principles of genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of the State to prevent human rights violations,

*Welcoming* the commitment and ongoing efforts of the Government of the first female President in the history of Honduras, Iris Xiomara Castro Sarmiento, to uphold human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthen the rule of law, in particular access to justice, and fight corruption, including the ongoing efforts to work with the United Nations for the establishment of an impartial, independent and autonomous international mechanism against corruption and impunity in Honduras,

*Welcoming also* the commitment of the Government of Honduras to reform the national penitentiary system in accordance with its obligations under international human rights law, and to guarantee respect for the lives of persons deprived of their liberty, including their physical and psychological integrity, with the aim of ensuring their reintegration into society,

*Deeply concerned* by the high level of violence and extortion perpetrated by organized crime groups throughout the areas in which they operate, and the control exerted by the gangs present in Honduras within the country's penitentiaries,

*Deeply concerned also* by the murder of at least 46 women prisoners at the National Women's Prison for Social Adaptation in Tamara on 20 June 2023, in the wake of an outbreak of violence between rival gangs,

*Acknowledging* that violence, discrimination, access to land and natural resources, insecurity, impunity and weak judicial independence are national structural problems that exacerbate and facilitate violations of human rights, in particular those of women, girls and persons in the most vulnerable situations,

*Acknowledging also* the need for integral reform of the penitentiary system that addresses the root causes of violence and contributes to the dismantling of gangs and other organized crime groups, giving priority to the rehabilitation and social integration of persons deprived of their liberty while also addressing long-standing challenges in prisons, such as the extensive use of incarceration, overcrowding and unsuitable living conditions,

*Emphasizing* that technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights are to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the State concerned, in accordance with its specific needs and priorities,

*Acknowledging* the existing tried and tested international methodology specifically devoted to the enhancement of Latin American penitentiary systems through different and converging pillars such as law enforcement, institution-building, capacity-building and value dissemination,

1. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to national civilian authorities in penitentiary, security and justice matters, for a period of one year, in order to improve the situation of human rights in Honduras, including ways to mainstream gender and that are inclusive of vulnerable and marginalized groups, and to implement all relevant recommendations made by United Nations human rights monitoring mechanisms;

2. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-seventh session, to be followed by an interactive dialogue;

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

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

*48th meeting  
12 October 2023*

[Adopted without a vote.]