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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****54/33. Establishment of a regional office of the Office of the United Nations  
High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Caribbean Community***The Human Rights Council,**Guided* by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling all relevant human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist, and reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights, economic, civil, cultural, political and social, including the right to development,*Recalling also* General Assembly resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and 51/102 of 12 December 1996, Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and Human Rights Council resolution 43/17 of 22 June 2022, and all subsequent Assembly and Council resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,*Reaffirming* that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,*Committed* to enhancing subregional, regional and international cooperation to promote universal promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in conformity with international obligations,*Convinced* that cooperation between the United Nations and regional initiatives in the field of human rights continues to be both substantive and supportive, and that possibilities exist for increased cooperation,*Reaffirming* that technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights should continue to be based on consultations with and with the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their requests, needs and priorities, and the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and should aim to make a concrete impact on the ground,

*Recalling* the resolutions of the General Assembly on cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community,

*Welcoming* the continued commitment of the States members of the Caribbean Community to the United Nations as a principal forum for multilateral cooperation,

*Recalling* the cooperation agreement between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Caribbean Community, and bearing in mind the cooperation activities undertaken pursuant to that agreement,

*Deeply concerned* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its severe global economic disruptions are having a significant negative impact on the sustainable development and humanitarian needs of States members of the Caribbean Community that are dependent on tourism, commodities, stable global supply chains and remittances, posing challenges to the full enjoyment of human rights and making the prospect of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more difficult,

*Mindful* of the diversity within the Caribbean Community as well as of the unique, new and persistent challenges, including declining foreign direct investment, trade imbalances, increased indebtedness, the lack of adequate transportation, energy and information and communications technology infrastructure networks, limited human and institutional capacity and the inability to integrate effectively into the global economy, the impact of de-risking on financial institutions in the Caribbean, onerous debt, graduation from access to concessionary development funding, the lack of access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, crime and violence, the illicit trade in drugs and arms, in particular small arms and light weapons and ammunition, the threat of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, the fight against communicable and non-communicable diseases, food insecurity, natural disasters and the adverse effects of climate change, including slow- and rapid-onset events and associated loss and damage, as well as the high cost of imported energy and the degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems and sea level rise, and biodiversity loss, all of which have increased the vulnerabilities and seriously worsened the challenges for the full enjoyment of human rights by every person and the sustainable development efforts of the States members of the Caribbean Community, and mindful also of the importance of ensuring the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for all persons, paying particular attention to the specific needs of those in vulnerable situations,

*Recalling* the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 75/323 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community to continue their cooperation and to enhance coherence in their engagement, within their respective mandates, so as to increase the capacity of the two organizations to attain their objectives and to seek answers to global challenges, including climate change, disaster risk reduction, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and sustainable development challenges, including poverty and inequality, de-risking, non-communicable diseases, transnational organized crime and terrorism,

*Welcoming* the endorsement and support expressed by the Council for Foreign and Community Relations of the Caribbean Community, through the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on 4 October 2023, for the establishment of a regional office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for the Caribbean Community and for the Bahamas to serve as its host,

1. *Welcomes* the continuing cooperation and assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the further strengthening of the existing regional arrangements and regional machineries for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through technical cooperation that is aimed at national capacity-building, public information and education, with a view to exchanging information and experience in the field of human rights;

2. *Also welcomes* the initiative of the Government of the Bahamas to host a regional office of the Office of the High Commissioner for the Caribbean Community, in line with the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights contained in

General Assembly resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993, in particular to undertake technical assistance and capacity-building activities in accordance with international human rights obligations and to support efforts to promote, protect and fulfil human rights within the region by the Governments of the Caribbean Community, with support from national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations and in the light of the unique challenges faced as small island developing States, including the adverse effects of climate change;

3. *Further welcomes* the willingness of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to engage with the Caribbean Community to conclude an agreement with the host country regarding the establishment of a regional office of the Office of the High Commissioner;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all the resources necessary to establish and operate the regional office of the Office of the High Commissioner;

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

*48th meeting  
12 October 2023*

[Adopted without a vote.]

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