



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
5 October 2021

Original: English

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-eighth session

13 September–8 October 2021

Agenda item 10

### Technical assistance and capacity-building

**Albania,\* Argentina, Brazil, Chile,\* Dominican Republic,\* Ecuador,\* Fiji, Honduras,\* Indonesia, Morocco,\* Nepal, Norway,\* Peru,\* Philippines, Portugal,\* Qatar,\* Singapore,\* Somalia, Thailand,\* Tunisia,\* Turkey,\* Ukraine, United States of America,\* Uruguay and Yemen\*:** draft resolution

### 48/... Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to achieving international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

*Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling all relevant human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,

*Recognizing* that, in the context of technical cooperation and capacity-building, the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to promote and protect human rights, to prevent human rights violations and to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

*Bearing in mind* the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as stated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, and the provisions of Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 that aim to enable the Council to fulfil such a mandate,

*Recalling* all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, on accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, online and offline, on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls, and on the realization of

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\* State not a member of the Human Rights Council.



the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl, and all relevant General Assembly resolutions relating to the empowerment of women and girls,

*Reaffirming* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls, and its specific and interlinked targets, and other relevant Goals and targets, and recognizing that women and girls play an important role in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Recognizing* the significance of the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in September 1995, and recalling the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Conference, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the political declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, as well as the International Conference on Population and Development and its review conferences,

*Underlining* the responsibility of States to respect and implement their obligations under international human rights law and existing commitments with respect to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including those contained in the outcome documents and reviews of relevant international conferences,

*Noting with concern* that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has disproportionately affected women and girls, especially women’s employment and livelihoods, exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and systemic discrimination, including a rise in gender-based violence, and restricted access to essential health-care services, which risks rolling back the progress made on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the past decades, and encouraging States and other relevant stakeholders to take an approach that respects human rights and gender equality in their responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of their policies and programmes, and to pay special attention to the specific needs of all women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations,

*Stressing* the need to strengthen efforts to realize the right of everyone, including women and girls, to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, without discrimination of any kind, and to promote equal opportunities for quality and affordable access to health-care services and well-being for all, including the achievement of universal health coverage, as well as universal, timely and equitable access to all essential, safe and effective health technologies, diagnostics, therapeutics, medicines and vaccines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other health emergencies,

*Recognizing* the critical role that women play in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and stressing the need for States, the United Nations system, regional organizations and other relevant actors to strengthen women’s leadership and to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and, as appropriate, women’s organizations in decision-making and implementation processes and in all stages of the response to COVID-19, as well as in recovery processes,

*Recognizing also* the need to strengthen efforts to realize the right to education for all women and girls by eliminating barriers in this regard, ensuring equal access to inclusive and equitable quality education, an effective transition from education to work, and training and skills development, promoting lifelong learning opportunities, supporting women’s and girls’ participation in all sectors, especially those in which they are not equally represented, in particular science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and strengthening international cooperation on these issues,

*Encouraging* States to strengthen their efforts to empower women and girls, enhance the participation of women and girls in the formulation of national development strategies and promote their leadership in society by taking measures to address all barriers that prevent or restrict their full, equal and meaningful participation and inclusion in all spheres of life, including through the creation of enabling programmes, support for women rights’ organizations, community outreach, and mentoring and capacity-building programmes, to

ensure their access, on an equal basis with others, to economic and financial resources and disability-inclusive and accessible social infrastructure, transportation, justice mechanisms and services, in particular in relation to health care and education, as well as productive employment and decent and secure work for women, and to ensure that the needs and priorities of women and girls are fully incorporated into, and that their human rights are respected in the context of, national policies, programmes and plans, and that they are closely consulted and actively involved in decision-making processes,

*Reiterating* the importance and value of the mandate of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), reaffirming its important role in leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and welcoming the leadership of UN-Women in supporting a strong voice of all women and girls at all levels,

*Recognizing* the importance of regional and cross-regional specialized agencies and initiatives in enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of the protection and enhancement of the human rights of women and girls, and encouraging relevant United Nations entities and mechanisms to support them,

*Underlining* the need for all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream a gender perspective into and pursue gender equality in all programming, including planning instruments, investment frameworks and sector-wide programmes,

*Reiterating* that one of the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to provide advisory services and technical assistance, at the request of the State concerned, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights, and to coordinate activities to promote and protect human rights throughout the United Nations system in accordance with the mandate of the Office,

*Expressing appreciation* for the important role played by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review in supporting States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of their human rights obligations and the recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, including those pertaining to the empowerment of all women and girls,

*Noting with appreciation* the contributions of the Boards of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review through their annual reports to the Human Rights Council, in particular on the components of technical cooperation and the identification of good practices,

*Welcoming and encouraging* new and existing initiatives aimed at providing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building support, in consultation with and with the consent of the Member States concerned, through bilateral, multilateral and international cooperation, including bilateral human rights dialogues and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to implement commitments to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

1. *Emphasizes* that the general debate under agenda item 10 is an essential platform for Members and observers of the Human Rights Council to share their visions and views, and concrete experiences, challenges and information on assistance needed, with regard to promoting more effective technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and that such technical cooperation should remain an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies, national human rights institutions, the private sector and civil society, including women's organizations;

2. *Reiterates* that technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights 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 aim to make a concrete impact on the ground;

3. *Underscores* the need to strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in support of the promotion and protection of human rights, including those relating to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls;

4. *Reaffirms* the ongoing need for enhanced voluntary contributions to the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and encourages States to continue to make contributions to these funds;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, that the achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if half of humanity continues to be denied its human rights and fundamental freedoms, that women and girls must enjoy full, equal and meaningful access to quality education, essential health-care services, economic resources and political participation, as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment, leadership positions and decision-making at all levels, and that the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is crucial;

6. *Recognizes* the need to strengthen the capacity of Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into policies and decision-making, and encourages all Governments, international organizations, including the organizations of the United Nations system, and other relevant stakeholders to assist and support the efforts of developing countries in integrating a gender perspective into all aspects of policymaking and the implementation of their human rights obligations and commitments, including through the increased provision of technical assistance and financial resources;

7. *Encourages* States in need of technical assistance to consider requesting it from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the United Nations Population Fund, in the implementation of their human rights obligations and voluntary pledges and commitments relating to the empowerment of all women and girls, including recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, and strongly encourages the Office of the High Commissioner and the respective United Nations agencies to respond favourably to such requests and to provide information, in a transparent manner, on the technical support available for and provided to States;

8. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies in their technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts, and encourages the sharing of information on a regular basis between the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and the States concerned on technical assistance and capacity-building efforts undertaken at the national level;

9. *Encourages* the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in their interaction with States, to continue to share information and knowledge relating to best practices and the possibility of providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the promotion and protection of human rights, including, where applicable and within their respective mandates, those pertaining to the empowerment of all women and girls, Sustainable Development Goal 5 and other relevant Goals, as well as approaches showing how gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls can contribute to the achievement of other Goals;

10. *Welcomes* the panel discussion held by the Human Rights Council at its forty-seventh session, pursuant to its resolution 45/32, on the theme “Technical cooperation to advance the right to education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and

lifelong learning for all”, at which participants discussed relevant issues, including the importance of education as a human right and an enabler for the realization of all other human rights, the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the right to education across the world, the need to bridge the digital divide between students and to invest in education as the most cost-effective way to recover from the pandemic, the use of new technologies in enhancing opportunities for quality education for all, and the importance of advancing international cooperation and technical assistance to implement the 2030 Agenda, including Sustainable Development Goal 4;<sup>1</sup>

11. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 18/18 of 29 September 2011, that the theme of the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10, to be held during its fiftieth session, will be “Technical cooperation on the full and effective participation of women in decision-making and in public life and on the elimination of violence, with a view to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”;

12. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fiftieth session, to serve as a basis for the panel discussion, on the activities and plans of the Office and relevant United Nations country teams and agencies and regional organizations to support States’ efforts to take action in accordance with the theme of the panel discussion;

13. *Calls upon* States, international human rights bodies and mechanisms, relevant international organizations, national human rights institutions and civil society to share best practices and make use of the ideas and issues raised in the panel discussion to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and policy coherence of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts and build multi-stakeholder partnerships in the empowerment of all women and girls.

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<sup>1</sup> See also A/HRC/47/56.