



## **Human Rights Council**

### **Resolution 7/20. Technical cooperation and advisory services in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

*The Human Rights Council,*

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

*Recalling* also its resolution 5/1 of 18 June 2007, by which it renewed the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until such time as it would be considered by the Council according to its programme of work,

*Recalling further* that, in its resolution 5/1, the Council decided that decisions to create, review or discontinue country mandates should also take into account the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations, and that any decision to streamline, merge or eventually discontinue mandates should always be guided by the need for improvement of the enjoyment and the protection of human rights,

*Taking into account* the discussions held at the present session of the Council on the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the context of the review, rationalization and improvement of the mandates of the Council,

*Expressing its appreciation* for the role undertaken by the international community, in particular by the African Union and the European Union in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which contributed to improving the situation on the ground, including the holding of presidential elections in 2006, and bearing in mind the challenges still faced by the country,

*Considering* that the pertinent work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights section of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is mutually reinforcing with that of the thematic special procedures,

*Taking into consideration* that the presence of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the human rights section of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been merged with a view to achieving more efficiency in their work on the human rights situation in the country,

*Taking into consideration also* the implementation of the new mechanism of cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the human rights section of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society, called the “Entité de liaison des droits de l’homme”,

*Having reviewed* the mandate of the independent expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation established by the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the independent expert during the period of his mandate;

2. *Also welcomes* the cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the thematic special procedures of the Council and its invitation to a number of them, including the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for children and armed conflict, to make recommendations, within their respective mandates, on how best to assist technically the Democratic Republic of the Congo in addressing the situation of human rights, with a view to obtaining tangible improvements on the ground, taking also into account the needs formulated by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo;

3. *Invites* the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to inform and update the Council, at its future sessions, on the human rights situation on the ground, identifying the challenges that it may still encounter as well as its needs in this regard;

4. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, through its presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to

increase and enhance its technical assistance activities and programmes in consultation with the authorities of the country;

5. *Calls on* the international community to support the implementation of the local mechanism of cooperation between the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the human rights section of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, called “Entité de liaison des droits de l’homme”;

6. *Invites* the High Commissioner to report to the Council at its session in March 2009 on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the activities the Office of the High Commissioner has undertaken in the country;

7. *Requests* the above-mentioned thematic special procedures (see paragraph 2 above) to report to the Council no later than its session in March 2009 under agenda item 10;

8. *Calls on* the international community to provide the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the various forms of assistance that the Democratic Republic of the Congo requests, with a view to improving the human rights situation;

9. *Decides* to pursue this matter under the same agenda item at its session in March 2009.

*40th meeting*  
*27 March 2008*  
Adopted without a vote.