



Human Rights Council

Resolution 7/4. Mandate of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming all previous resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in connection with the effects of structural adjustment and economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, including resolutions 1998/24 of 17 April 1998, 1999/22 of 23 April 1999, 2000/82 of 26 April 2000, 2004/18 of 16 April 2004 and 2005/19 of 14 April 2005, as well as Human Rights Council decision 2/109 of 27 November 2006,

Bearing in mind paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling its resolutions 5/1 entitled “Institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council”, and 5/2, entitled “Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council”, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate-holder shall discharge his/her duties in accordance with these resolutions and their annexes,

Taking into account the report (A/HRC/7/9) presented by the outgoing holder of the mandate of the independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights,

1. *Acknowledges with appreciation* the work and contributions made by Bernard Andrew Nyamwaya Mudho during his tenure as independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights,

particularly economic, social and cultural rights, and takes note with appreciation of his latest report to the Council;

2. *Decides* to redefine the mandate of the special thematic procedure and rename it “independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights”, so as to allow the mandate-holder to pay particular attention to:

(a) The effects of foreign debt and the policies adopted to address them on the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights in developing countries;

(b) The impact of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations on the capacity of States to design and implement their policies and programmes, including national budgets that respond to vital requirements for the promotion of the realization of social rights;

(c) Measures taken by Governments, the private sector and international financial institutions to alleviate such effects in developing countries, especially the poorest and heavily indebted countries;

(d) New developments, actions and initiatives being taken by international financial institutions, other United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations with respect to economic reform policies and human rights;

(e) Quantification of minimum standards to support the realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

(f) Enhancement of consultations with all relevant stakeholders in the fulfilment of this mandate;

3. *Also decides* that the mandate of the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, will be extended for a period of three years;

4. *Requests* the independent expert to explore further, in his/her analytical annual report to the Human Rights Council, the interlinkages with trade and other issues, including HIV/AIDS, when examining the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, and also to contribute, as appropriate, to the process entrusted with the follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development, with a view to bringing to its attention the broad scope of his/her mandate;

5. *Also requests* the independent expert to seek the views and suggestions of States, international organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, regional economic commissions, international and regional financial institutions and non-governmental organizations on the draft general guidelines with a view to improve it, as appropriate, and to present updated draft general guidelines to the Council in 2010;

6. *Further requests* the independent expert to cooperate, in accordance with his/her mandate, with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as with the Advisory Committee, special procedures, mechanisms and relevant working groups of the Council related to economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, in his/her work towards the improvement of the above-mentioned draft general guidelines;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the independent expert with all necessary assistance, in particular the staff and resources required to carry out his/her functions, as well as to facilitate his/her participation in and contribution to the follow-up process of the International Conference on Financing for Development;

8. *Urges* Governments, international organizations, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to cooperate fully with the independent expert in the discharge of his/her mandate;

9. *Requests* the independent expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights to submit an analytical report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Council in 2009 in accordance with its annual programme of work, and to submit a progress report on this issue to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

10. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item.

*39th meeting
27 March 2008*

Adopted by a recorded vote of 34 to 13. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Uruguay, Zambia.

Against: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.