



Human Rights Council

Resolution 8/5. Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling all previous resolutions of the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights on this issue, in particular General Assembly resolution 61/160 of 19 December 2006 and the Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/57 of 20 April 2005,

Reaffirming that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights can be fully realized,

Affirming that the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion of all human rights should continue in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as set forth in articles 1 and 2 of the Charter, and, inter alia, with full respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence, the non-use of force, or the threat of force, in international relations, and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State,

Stressing that the responsibility for managing worldwide economic and social issues, as well as threats to international peace and security, must be shared among the nations of the world and should be exercised multilaterally, and that in this regard the central role must be played by the United Nations, as the most universal and representative organization in the world,

Considering the major changes taking place on the international scene and the aspirations of all peoples for an international order based on the principles enshrined in the Charter, including promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all and respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peace, democracy, justice, equality, the rule of law at the national and international levels, pluralism, development, better standards of living and international solidarity,

Having listened to the peoples of the world and recognizing their aspirations to justice, to equality of opportunity for all and everyone, and to the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to development, to live in peace and freedom and to equal participation without discrimination in economic, social, cultural, civil and political life,

Resolved to take all measures within its power to secure a democratic and equitable international order,

1. *Affirms* that everyone and every people have the right to a democratic and equitable international order;

2. *Also affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order fosters the full realization of all human rights for all;

3. *Further affirms* that a democratic and equitable international order requires, inter alia, the realization of the following:

(a) The right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they can freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development;

(b) The right of peoples and nations to permanent sovereignty over their natural wealth and resources;

(c) The right of every human person and all peoples to development, as a universal and inalienable right and an integral part of fundamental human rights;

(d) The right of all peoples to peace;

(e) The right to an international economic order based on equal participation in the decision-making process, interdependence, mutual interest, international solidarity and cooperation among all States;

(f) International solidarity, as a right of peoples and individuals;

(g) The promotion and consolidation of transparent, democratic, just and accountable international institutions in all areas of cooperation, in particular through the implementation of the principles of full and equal participation in their respective decision-making mechanisms;

(h) The right to equitable participation of all, without any discrimination, in domestic as well as global decision-making;

(i) The principle of equitable regional and gender-balanced representation in the composition of the staff of the United Nations system;

(j) The promotion of a free, just, effective and balanced international information and communication order, based on international cooperation for the establishment of a new equilibrium and greater reciprocity in the international flow of information, in particular correcting the inequalities in the flow of information to and from developing countries;

(k) The promotion of an inclusive global technology and knowledge society directed towards bridging the technology and knowledge divide, promoting a universal, equitable and non-discriminatory access to knowledge and technologies;

(l) Respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of everyone;

(m) The right of every person and all peoples to a healthy environment and to an enhanced international cooperation that respond effectively to the needs of assistance of national efforts of adaptation to climate change, particularly in developing countries, and that promote the fulfilment of international agreements in the field of mitigation;

(n) The promotion of equitable access to benefits from the international distribution of wealth through enhanced international cooperation, in particular in international economic, commercial and financial relations;

(o) The enjoyment by everyone of ownership of the common heritage of mankind in connection to a public right of access to culture;

(p) The shared responsibility of the nations of the world for managing worldwide economic and social issues as well as threats to international peace and security that should be exercised multilaterally;

4. *Stresses* the importance of preserving the rich and diverse nature of the international community of nations and peoples, as well as respect for the universality of human rights, national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;

5. Urges all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, peace, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. *Reaffirms* that all States should promote the establishment, maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security and, to that end, should do their utmost to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, as well as to ensure that the resources released by effective disarmament measures are used for comprehensive development, in particular that of developing countries;

7. *Expresses its rejection* of unilateralism and stresses its commitment to multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, as the only reasonable method of addressing international problems;

8. *Recalls* the proclamation by the General Assembly of its determination to work urgently for the establishment of an international economic order based on equity, sovereign equality, interdependence, common interest and cooperation among all States, irrespective of their economic and social systems, which shall correct inequalities and redress existing injustices, make it possible to eliminate the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and ensure steadily accelerating economic and social development and peace and justice for present and future generations;

9. *Reaffirms* that the international community should devise ways and means to remove current obstacles and meet the challenges to the full realization of all human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations resulting there from throughout the world;

10. *Urges* States to continue their efforts, through enhanced international cooperation, towards the establishment of a democratic and equitable international order;

11. *Requests* the human rights treaty bodies, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the mechanisms of the Human Rights Council and the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee to pay due attention, within their

respective mandates, to the present resolution and to make contributions towards its implementation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of Member States, United Nations organs, bodies and components, intergovernmental organizations, in particular the Bretton Woods institutions, and non-governmental organizations and to disseminate it on the widest possible basis;

13. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter under the same agenda item in accordance with the annual program of work.

28th meeting
18 June 2008

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 33 to 13 with 1 absence:]

In favour: Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, 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, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

Abstaining: Ghana,¹ Mexico.]

¹ The representative of Ghana subsequently stated that her delegation had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.