



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Eighteenth session

Agenda item 3

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council*

18/13

The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the obligation of States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and other human rights instruments, as well as the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council,

Recalling the role of the Human Rights Council in the prevention of human rights violations through cooperation and dialogue, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Expressing concern about continued human rights violations around the world,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, and 16/21 of 25 March 2011,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 14/5 of 17 June 2010,

* The resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council will be contained in the report of the Council on its eighteenth session (A/HRC/18/2), chap. I.

1. *Affirms* the importance of effective preventive measures as a part of overall strategies for the promotion and protection of all human rights;
2. *Recognizes* that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the prevention of human rights violations, and that this responsibility involves all branches of the State;
3. *Stresses* that States should promote supportive and enabling environments for the prevention of human rights violations, including, inter alia, by:
 - (a) Considering ratifying international human rights conventions and covenants;
 - (b) Fully implementing international human rights conventions and covenants to which they are party;
 - (c) Developing good governance, democratic systems, the rule of law and accountability;
 - (d) Adopting policies to ensure the enjoyment of all human rights;
 - (e) Addressing all forms of discrimination, as well as factors, inter alia, inequality and poverty, that may lead to situations in which human rights violations are committed;
 - (f) Promoting a free and active civil society;
 - (g) Promoting freedom of expression;
 - (h) Ensuring, where they exist, strong and independent national human rights institutions, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles);
 - (i) Promoting human rights education and training, in particular for State actors;
 - (j) Ensuring an independent and functioning judiciary;
 - (k) Fighting corruption;
4. *Welcomes* the role of national human rights institutions in contributing to the prevention of human rights violations, and encourages States to strengthen the mandate and capacity of such institutions, where they exist, to enable them to fulfil this role effectively in accordance with the Paris Principles;
5. *Acknowledges* that the Human Rights Council shall, inter alia, contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, to the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies;
6. *Welcomes* the submission of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Workshop on the Role of Prevention in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights,¹ and takes note of the conclusions and recommendations therein;
7. *Stresses* the need to further develop and raise awareness of the concept of prevention of human rights violations in order to encourage its reflection in relevant policies and strategies at the national, regional and international levels;
8. *Recognizes* the need for further research to assist States, at their request, and other stakeholders to understand and mainstream the role of prevention into the promotion and protection of human rights;

¹ A/HRC/18/24.

9. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare, in close cooperation with the mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, within existing resources, a practical toolkit to support States and other stakeholders in understanding the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights, and to present the toolkit to the Council at its twenty-second session;

10. *Decides* to continue consideration of the matter under the same agenda item, in conformity with its annual programme of work.

36th meeting
29 September 2011
[Adopted without a vote.]
