



Human Rights Council**Forty-fifth session**

14 September–7 October 2020

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
on 6 October 2020****45/14. Eliminating inequality within and among States for the realization of
human rights***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations,**Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which affirms that all human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated, and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis,**Recalling also all relevant international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,**Stressing the critical role of the Human Rights Council with respect to human dignity and in promoting universal respect for and the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner, and recalling relevant Council resolutions,**Acknowledging the contributions of international human rights mechanisms, including the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review, in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in accordance with States' human rights obligations,**Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter, including full respect for international law, is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and is informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,**Recognizing also that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be consistent with a State's obligations under international human rights law, and acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,*

Recognizing further that human rights are inherent in the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals in their indivisibility and interdependence, and that their realization is in essence the advancement of human rights,

Recalling that the Sustainable Development Goals build on the Millennium Development Goals and aim to complete what the latter did not achieve, to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls,

Noting that 2020 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen, where Heads of State and Government committed in the Declaration to reduce inequalities, increase opportunities and access to resources and income, and to remove any political, legal, economic and social factors and constraints that foster and sustain inequality,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Noting with concern that inequalities persist within and among countries, posing significant challenges to social cohesion, and reaffirming that the eradication of poverty, the promotion of prosperity, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and the reduction of inequality within and among countries are fundamental to achieving sustainable development for all, and that they require collective and transformative efforts to leave no one behind and put the furthest behind first, and to adapt institutions and policies to take into account the multidimensional nature of inequality and poverty and the inherent interlinkages between the different goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda,

Deeply concerned that, just five years after the commencement of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has reversed the gains made, including the successes of the Millennium Development Goals,

Gravely concerned that the COVID-19 pandemic has eroded years of progress accomplished by perpetuating and exacerbating existing inequalities, and that those most at risk are persons in a vulnerable and marginalized situation,

Deeply concerned by the morbidity and mortality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, its negative impacts on physical and mental health and social well-being, the negative impacts on the economy and society and the consequent exacerbation of inequalities within and between countries,

Recognizing that the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects the poor and the most vulnerable people, with repercussions on health and development gains, in particular in low- and middle-income and developing countries, thus hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, reiterating the importance of continued and concerted efforts, and the provision of development assistance, and recognizing also with deep concern the impact of high debt levels on States' ability to withstand the impact of the COVID-19 shock,

Deeply concerned that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is deepening already existing inequalities and risks reversing the progress made in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in recent decades, while disproportionately affecting persons in vulnerable situations, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons and migrants, regardless of migration status, in every sphere, from health and education to the economy, security and social protection,

Recalling the reports of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level, and on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Reaffirms* that extreme poverty, deep inequality and exclusion constitute a violation of human rights and dignity, and that urgent national and international action is therefore required to eliminate them;

2. *Decides* to work in a systematic manner to give due consideration to address inequality within and among States by sharing best practices, challenges and lessons learned concerning integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

3. *Calls upon* States:

(a) To continuously analyse the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their objectives to achieve equality, and to share the outcomes thereof;

(b) To ensure protection for those most affected, namely women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons and migrants, and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population, and to prevent all forms of discrimination, especially in the context of timely, universal, inclusive, equitable and non-discriminatory access to safe, quality, effective and affordable health care and services and medical supplies and equipment, including diagnostics, therapeutics, medicine and vaccines, and to leave no one behind, endeavouring to reach the furthest behind first, founded on the dignity of the human person and reflecting the principles of equality and non-discrimination;

4. *Recognizes* the need for greater international cooperation to further reduce inequality within and among States and to increase capacity-building support to countries with the most constrained resources to ensure that social expenditures meet certain targets as part of their efforts to further promote and protect human rights for all;

5. *Decides*, in order to have a clear line of sight with respect to inequalities as States “build back better” after the pandemic, to hold at its forty-eighth session a half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and their implications for the realization of human rights, and requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make the discussion fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and to prepare a summary report on the discussion and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-first session;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to organize the above-mentioned panel discussion and to collaborate with States and other relevant stakeholders, including United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates, civil society organizations, and national human rights institutions, in order to ensure multi-stakeholder participation in the panel discussion;

7. *Requests* all mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and relevant stakeholders to pay particular attention to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 10;

8. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

*36th meeting
6 October 2020*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 25 to 8, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Angola, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Libya, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

Against:

Australia, Bulgaria, Czechia, Denmark, Japan, Netherlands, Poland and Slovakia

Abstaining:

Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Italy, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Peru, Republic of Korea, Spain, Ukraine and Uruguay]