



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 7 October 2020****45/29. Promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full
enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Reaffirming* the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and recalling all relevant international human rights law and international humanitarian law instruments,*Acknowledging* that international human rights law and international humanitarian law are complementary and mutually reinforcing, and recognizing the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of all persons, and that persons living in humanitarian situations are entitled to respect for and the protection of all human rights, in accordance with international law,*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolutions 31/6 of 23 March 2016, 35/16 of 22 June 2017, 37/20 of 23 March 2018 and 39/10 of 27 September 2018, General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and all other relevant resolutions,*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 27 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and the Sustainable Development Goals enshrined therein, including the commitment of all States to achieve gender equality and to provide access to justice for all,*Recalling further* that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect human rights,*Acknowledging* the ongoing integration of a gender and an age perspective in the formulation, interpretation and implementation of human rights instruments, as well as in reports, resolutions and/or decisions of the Human Rights Council and its various mechanisms and of other human rights mechanisms,

Recognizing that pre-existing human rights issues are further exacerbated and that new violations and abuses may arise in humanitarian situations, which include humanitarian emergencies, forced displacements, armed conflicts and natural disasters, including sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events,

Recognizing also that humanitarian situations have the potential to exacerbate pre-existing or to create new patterns and structures of discrimination and inequalities, and further undermine access to health-care services and information, housing, water, sanitation, education and employment, and may disrupt protection systems, resulting in a disproportionately negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights by women and girls,

Recognizing further and appreciating the efforts of developing countries, despite severe resource constraints, to host people in humanitarian situations, in particular refugees, forcibly displaced persons and persons displaced by sudden-onset natural disasters, and slow-onset events, including climate-related events,

Convinced that greater political will and commitment, international cooperation and technical assistance at all levels are urgently required to address the human rights of women and girls in humanitarian situations, and welcoming and encouraging the continued humanitarian support provided by the international community, including Member States, and by relevant United Nations agencies and humanitarian actors,

Expressing concern that, according to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in its *Global Humanitarian Overview 2020*, in 2020, nearly 168 million people will need humanitarian assistance and protection, and that women and girls face heightened risks in humanitarian situations,

Recognizing that, in humanitarian situations, the breakdown of infrastructure and service provision and the weakening of institutions may occur, along with sexual and gender-based violence, stereotypes, stigma, inequalities and multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which can prevent women and girls from having access to justice and remedies for human rights violations and abuses they have experienced, thus undermining accountability,

Stressing that addressing the root causes of humanitarian situations is important in supporting the prevention of violations and abuses of the human rights of women and girls,

Emphasizing the importance of women's and girls' meaningful participation, empowerment and leadership, including that of survivors and victims, in efforts to prevent, reduce the risk of, prepare for, resolve and rebuild from humanitarian emergencies, and noting the importance of a comprehensive approach to promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations,

Reiterating that all States Members of the United Nations, and in particular the Members of the Human Rights Council, should cooperate fully with the Council and its mechanisms, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251,

Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to submit to the Human Rights Council at its forty-ninth session an analytical report on a comprehensive approach to promoting, protecting and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations, including good practices, challenges and lessons learned at the national, regional and international levels, with input from all relevant stakeholders, including States Members of the United Nations, United Nations bodies, agencies, funds and programmes, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Council, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and women and girls in humanitarian situations.

*38th meeting
7 October 2020*

[Adopted without a vote.]