



Human Rights Council**Fifty-fourth session**

11 September–13 October 2023

Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building**Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council
on 12 October 2023****54/28. Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field
of human rights**

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly with regard to achieving international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling all relevant human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Noting that 2023 marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recognizing that, in the context of technical cooperation and capacity-building, the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to promote, protect and fulfil human rights, to prevent human rights violations and to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as stated by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, to promote advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, to be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, and the provisions of Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007 and 16/21 of 25 March 2011 that aim to enable the Council to fulfil such a mandate,

Recalling all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, on strengthening the voluntary funds for the universal periodic review mechanism of the Human Rights Council, and on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 51/33 of 7 October 2022, in which the Council considered that the implementation of human rights obligations and



commitments would benefit from expanded, institutionalized follow-up at the regional, national and local levels, such as by establishing or strengthening national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, and that such mechanisms facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and recalling the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 17 on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, which are grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties,

Noting the contribution of international human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review mechanism, to promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in accordance with States’ obligations and commitments to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, and the role of technical cooperation and capacity-building in this regard,

Recognizing the importance of enhancing international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the Sustainable Development Goals,

Underlining the importance for relevant organizations of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations country teams, within their respective mandates, to mainstream technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in their work and programmes,

Acknowledging the role and impact of the activities of the relevant agencies of the United Nations and international and regional organizations, the contribution of national stakeholders, including national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and civil society organizations in providing States with technical support and assistance on the basis of the needs and requests of the States concerned, and the support of national parliaments in the implementation of States’ human rights obligations, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations,

Reiterating that one of the responsibilities of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is to provide advisory services and technical assistance, at the request of the State concerned, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights, and to coordinate activities to promote and protect human rights throughout the United Nations system in accordance with the mandate of the Office,

Expressing appreciation for the important role played by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review in supporting States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of their human rights obligations and the recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review,

Noting that a number of States have utilized relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the implementation of their human rights obligations and commitments, and underlining the need to further promote the visibility of these funds, to facilitate the way to solicit them, and to strengthen efforts to enhance their complementarity,

Noting with appreciation the contributions of the Boards of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review through their annual reports to the Human Rights Council, in

particular on the components of technical cooperation and the identification of good practices,

Welcoming and encouraging new and existing initiatives aimed at providing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building support, in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned, through bilateral, regional, multilateral and international cooperation, including bilateral human rights dialogues and North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as public-private partnerships, to assist States in implementing their human rights obligations, as well as voluntary pledges and commitments, and underlining the need for States and all relevant stakeholders to work in complementarity with one another in the delivery of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights,

Stressing the need to raise awareness about the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, which would accelerate the implementation of activities in this area, with a view to improving human rights situations worldwide, and also the need to maintain the spirit of constructive cooperation and non-politicization,

Reaffirming that the universal periodic review is a cooperative mechanism and a State-driven process with the full involvement of the State concerned and with consideration given to its capacity-building needs, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251 and Human Rights Council resolution 5/1,

Welcoming the 100 per cent participation of States in the universal periodic review since its inception and the efforts made to implement the recommendations emanating from their review,

1. *Emphasizes* that the general debate under agenda item 10 is an essential platform for members and observers of the Human Rights Council to openly share their visions and views, and concrete experiences, challenges, progress and achievements, as well as information on assistance needed, with regard to promoting more effective technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and that such technical cooperation should remain an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, the private sector, civil society, including women's organizations, and rights holders;

2. *Reiterates* that technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights continue to be based on consultations with and with the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their requests, needs and priorities, as well as their national context, and the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and are aimed at making a concrete impact at all levels on the ground;

3. *Underscores* the need to strengthen international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue in support of the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, with a view to generating sustainable outcomes, and encourages regional human rights bodies to share experiences and exchange good practices in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, including those relating to the empowerment of all women and girls, while engaging with relevant players, including national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and rights holders;

4. *Reaffirms* the ongoing need for enhanced voluntary contributions to the relevant United Nations funds to support technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights, encourages States to continue to make contributions to these funds as well as to the technical assistance and capacity-building programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner is in a position to respond to the requests for assistance identified in its annual appeals, and encourages the funds and the Office to continue to enhance the efficiency and transparency of their activities;

5. *Affirms* that the universal periodic review process is a channel to initiate constructive and inclusive dialogue on human rights and explore avenues for technical cooperation with States under review, and that their accepted universal periodic review

recommendations, pledges and commitments could serve as a platform to develop and strengthen technical cooperation and to increase partnerships among States, relevant United Nations agencies and stakeholders, including civil society, in order to support the implementation of international human rights obligations by States;

6. *Welcomes* the contributions made by States towards the process of follow-up on and implementation of universal periodic review recommendations in States under review, and encourages all States to contribute to the follow-up on and implementation of such recommendations by States under review by, inter alia, showcasing best practices, sharing experiences and expertise and offering technical assistance on the basis of requests and the consent of the States concerned;

7. *Encourages* States also to consider offering technical assistance and to share best practices and experience in the areas that they can, contributing to the implementation of their own universal periodic review recommendations that were accepted by States under review on the basis of requests and the consent of the States concerned;

8. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations agencies to promote and support the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations by States, and calls for the Office and other relevant United Nations agencies to continue to provide timely and quality support for States' requests in their efforts to implement recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review and to prepare their national reports for the review, and encourages greater coordination in this regard;

9. *Recognizes* that existing national human rights institutions and civil society can play an important role in supporting the implementation of accepted universal periodic review recommendations and the preparation of national universal periodic review reports, and hence encourages States and relevant United Nations agencies to provide technical assistance and capacity-building for and to collaborate with these actors in those processes;

10. *Encourages* States in need of technical assistance to consider requesting it from the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations agencies in the implementation of their human rights obligations, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments, including recommendations accepted in the context of the universal periodic review, and strongly encourages the Office and respective United Nations agencies to respond favourably to such requests and to provide information, in a transparent and timely manner, on the technical support available for and provided to States;

11. *Stresses* the importance of enhancing coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and other United Nations agencies in their technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts, and encourages the sharing of information and best practices on a regular basis between the Office, other relevant United Nations agencies and the States concerned on technical assistance and capacity-building efforts undertaken at the national level;

12. *Encourages* the special procedures of the Human Rights Council, in their interaction with States, to continue to share information and knowledge relating to best practices and the possibility of providing technical assistance and capacity-building in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of human rights, including, where applicable and within their respective mandates, those pertaining to the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations;

13. *Welcomes* the holding of the intersessional meeting and the enhanced interactive dialogue on technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 51/34 of 7 October 2022, at which participants underlined the importance of this mission of the Council, reflected on achievements made and obstacles faced, and stressed the need to provide sufficient funding to carry out the Council's work, and also discussed the way forward to improve technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, including by enhancing the

sharing of experiences and best practices and promoting the implementation of all human rights;¹

14. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to establish and maintain, through additional dedicated capacity, an online repository of technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, with voluntary submissions made by States, as well as relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international and regional organizations, regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, upon the consent of the States concerned, and to update the Human Rights Council, from its fifty-sixth session under the annual report on technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, on the information gathered there on a yearly basis, calling upon those stakeholders with good practices in the above-mentioned areas to provide technical assistance to the States concerned on the basis of their requests and consent as a form of peer support;

15. *Recognizes* that the above-mentioned repository could contribute to greater efficiency and visibility of existing and potential technical cooperation and capacity-building activities and existing resources from which the States concerned could benefit, and the need to build synergies with other relevant databases, including, among others, a virtual knowledge hub for national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up;

16. *Acknowledges* the potential benefit of expanding the above-mentioned repository to include a match-making function to enhance coordination of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts in the implementation of accepted universal periodic review recommendations;

17. *Decides*, in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of Human Rights Council resolution 18/18 of 29 September 2011, that the theme of the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10, to be held at its fifty-sixth session, will be “Enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations”;

18. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-sixth session, to serve as a basis for the panel discussion, on enhancing coordination among States, the Office and other relevant stakeholders to support States’ efforts to implement universal periodic review recommendations through technical cooperation;

19. *Calls upon* States to implement their human rights obligations, and also calls upon States, international human rights bodies and mechanisms, relevant international organizations, national human rights institutions, national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and civil society to make use of the ideas and issues raised in the panel discussion to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and policy coherence of technical cooperation and capacity-building efforts and to build multi-stakeholder partnerships, in the follow-up to and implementation of universal periodic review recommendations, especially in the light of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and in contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

*48th meeting
12 October 2023*

[Adopted without a vote.]

¹ See A/HRC/53/63.