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Human Rights Council
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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 30 March 2026

61/12. Promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and all other relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling also all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on the promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 78/286 of 7 June 2024, in which the Assembly declared 10 June the International Day for Dialogue among Civilizations,

Noting the declarations within the United Nations system on cultural diversity and international cultural cooperation, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Cooperation and the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 1966 and 2001 respectively,

Welcoming the increasing number of States Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, which was adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 20 October 2005 and entered into force on 18 March 2007,

Convinced that international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all should be based on an understanding of the economic, social and cultural specificities of each country and the full realization and recognition of the universality of all human rights and the principles of freedom, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

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Recognizing also the important role of education in the promotion of cultural rights and respect for cultural diversity,

Acknowledging that the promotion of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their cultures and traditions contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations,

Recognizing the right of persons with disabilities to participate in cultural life on an equal basis with others, as well as to be entitled to recognition of and support for their cultural and linguistic identity, including sign languages and deaf culture, and recognizing also the barriers they face to the full enjoyment of their cultural rights,

Encouraging activities aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at all levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Determined to treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of the enjoyment of cultural rights and respect for cultural diversity can contribute to a comprehensive, inclusive and action-oriented response to current global challenges:

1. *Reaffirms* that cultural rights are an integral part of human rights, which are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, and calls upon all States to respect, promote, protect and fulfil cultural rights;

2. *Recognizes* the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

3. *Reaffirms* that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Recalls* that, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope;

5. *Reaffirms* that States have the responsibility to promote and protect cultural rights, and that these rights should be guaranteed for all, without discrimination;

6. *Recognizes* that respect for the cultural diversity and cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural heritage and background, advancing the application and enjoyment of human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

7. *Also recognizes* that respect for and the promotion of cultural rights are essential for development, peace, the eradication of poverty, the building of social cohesion and the promotion of mutual respect, tolerance and understanding between individuals and groups, in all their diversity;

8. *Further recognizes* that culture is an essential component of human development, that it represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and the community and that it is an important factor in social inclusion and poverty eradication, providing for sustainable economic growth and ownership of development processes;

9. *Emphasizes* that the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including cultural rights, and respect for cultural diversity are mutually supportive;

10. *Acknowledges* the importance of exploring innovative, inclusive and practical solutions that contribute to the participation in cultural life on an equal basis of persons with disabilities;

11. *Looks forward* to the contributions of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights to the promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity;

12. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur on artificial intelligence and creativity and on cultural rights and nature conservation;

13. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the Special Rapporteur in the discharge of the mandate, to provide the mandate holder with all the necessary information requested by her and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to her requests to visit their countries in order to enable her to fulfil her duties effectively;

14. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide the Special Rapporteur with all the human and financial resources necessary for the effective fulfilment of the mandate;

15. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to continue to work, within her mandate, with all relevant stakeholders towards the comprehensive promotion and protection of cultural rights, and to report regularly to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly, in accordance with their respective programmes of work;

16. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this matter under the same agenda item, in accordance with its programme of work.

52nd meeting
30 March 2026

[Adopted without a vote.]