



**International
Disability
Alliance**

IDA Member Organizations

African Disability Forum, Arab Organization of Persons with Disabilities, Down Syndrome International, European Disability Forum, Inclusion International, International Federation of Hard of Hearing People, International Federation for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus, Latin American Network of Non-Governmental Organizations of Persons with Disabilities and their Families, Pacific Disability Forum, World Blind Union, World Federation of the Deaf, World Federation of the DeafBlind, World Network of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry

RESOLUTIONS APPROVED AT THE 33RD SESSION HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

COMPILATION

Geneva, September 2016

(English Version)

The present compilation collects relevant information from the resolutions presented to the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council, held from 13 September to 30 September 2016, in Geneva.

The HRC approved thirty resolutions during the 33th session - not specifically related to persons with disabilities, of those, 14 included 26 relevant references to persons with disabilities, their rights or to the CRPD.

These resolutions are important as they express international commitments undertaken by the co-sponsor States, including on the rights of persons with disabilities in non-disability specific issues, and strengthen advances in the international soft law.

Extracts and links to the full texts are provided below.

1. [The human rights of older persons](#) (Argentina, Brazil)
2. [Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights](#) (El Salvador)
3. [Local government and human rights](#) (Chile, Egypt, Republic of Korea, Romania)
4. [The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health](#) (Brazil)
5. [The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation](#) (Germany, Spain)
6. [Human rights and indigenous peoples](#) (Guatemala, Mexico)
7. [National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights](#) (Australia)
8. [Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights](#) (Sudan (on behalf of the Group of Arab States))
9. [Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights](#) (Burkina Faso, Colombia, New Zealand)
10. [Equal participation in political and public affairs](#) (Botswana, Czechia, Indonesia, Netherlands, Peru)
11. [The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic](#) (France, Germany, Italy, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

12. [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (Guatemala, Mexico)
13. [Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan](#) (South Africa (on behalf of the Group of African States))
14. [Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic](#) (South Africa (on behalf of the Group of African States))
15. [Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights](#) (Brazil, Honduras, Indonesia, Morocco, Norway, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey)
16. [Technical assistance and capacity-building for human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#) (South Africa (on behalf of the Group of African States))

1. Resolution 33/5 - [The human rights of older persons](#)

Abstract

The resolution welcomes the work and the reports of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons and of the Openended Working Group on Ageing, which is open to all States Members of the United Nations, for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. The resolution recognizes that older persons face a number of particular challenges in the enjoyment of their human rights that need to be addressed urgently, including in the areas of prevention of and protection against violence and abuse, social protection, food and housing, right to work, equality and non-discrimination, access to justice, education, training, health support, long-term and palliative care, lifelong learning, participation and accessibility.

Extracts

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and other relevant human rights instruments, (PP2)

Concerned at the multiple forms of discrimination that may affect older persons and at the high incidence of poverty and isolation among this particularly vulnerable group, especially older women, **persons with disabilities**, persons of African descent, individuals belonging to indigenous peoples, persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, rural persons, persons living on the streets, migrants and refugees, among other groups, (PP13)

Decides to extend the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons for a period of three years: To integrate a gender and **disability perspective throughout the work of the mandate, and to address multiple, intersecting and aggravated forms of discrimination faced by older persons**; (OP6 (h))

2. Resolution 33/7 - [Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights](#)

Abstract

The resolution expresses serious concern about the situation of migrants, in particular children and adolescents, who are forced to flee or decide to leave their homelands owing to multiple causes and who are unaccompanied or separated from their families, and face a variety of risks on the migratory route, and calls upon States of origin, transit and destination to work together to find effective and sustainable solutions within a framework of solidarity and regional and international cooperation.

Extracts

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set out therein, without distinction of any kind, in particular as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, (PP1)

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, **the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Convention against Discrimination in Education, the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol thereto, and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) of the International Labour Organization, (PP2)

Calls upon all States to ensure that their immigration policies are consistent with their obligations under international law, and to promote and protect the human rights of all migrants without discrimination, including by taking steps to increase cooperation and coordination at all levels to address serious human rights violations and abuses, serious crimes such as the smuggling and trafficking of unaccompanied migrant children, as well as other abuse and exploitation; (OP4)

3. Resolution 33/8 - [Local government and human rights](#)

Abstract

The resolution recognizes the role of local government in the promotion and protection of human rights, without any prejudice to the primary responsibility of the national Government in this regard. It highlights that given its proximity to people and being at the grass-roots level, one of the important functions of local government is to provide public services that address local needs and priorities related to the realization of human rights at the local level.

Extracts

Bearing in mind that the **Sustainable Development Goals and the targets** are aimed at realizing the **human rights of all** and at achieving **gender equality** and the **empowerment of all women and girls**, and also that they are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, the social and the environmental, (PP5)

Bearing in mind that **human rights and fundamental freedoms are the birthright of all human beings**, and that their **protection and promotion is the first responsibility of Governments**, (PP7)

Recognizing further that, given its proximity to people and being at the grass-roots level, **one of the important functions of local government is to provide public services that address local needs and priorities related to the realization of human rights at the local level**, (PP10)

Underlining that the promotion of a human rights culture within public services, as well as **public servants' knowledge, training and awareness, play a vital role in promoting respect for and the realization of human rights in society**, and **stressing the importance in this regard of human rights education and training for public servants at the local government level**, (PP11)

4. Resolution 33/9 - [The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health](#)

Abstract

The resolution welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and decides to extend its mandate for a further period of three years.

Extracts

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, (PP1)

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 27 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and **welcoming the Sustainable Development Goals, including, inter alia, Goal 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages**, and its specific and interlinked targets, and other health-related Goals and targets, (PP2)

Welcomes the **work of the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**; (OP1)

5. Resolution 33/10 - [The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation](#)

Abstract

The resolution expresses deep concerns about the lack of access to water and sanitation and hygiene underlies severe human costs such as poor health and high mortality rates, and major economic losses, and affirming that affordability, accessibility and availability, as human rights criteria, require that the use of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services is accessible at a price that is affordable to all people. Furthermore it affirms that attention to realizing the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and other related human rights will advance efforts by Member States to achieve several other Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to adequate housing, education, health and gender equality.

Extracts

Recalling further the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the **Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, (PP4)

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which reaffirms **that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated**, including the right to development, (PP5)

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Goal 6 on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, which comprises important targets relating to the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation as well as hygiene, and **acknowledges the need for an integrated approach to Goal 6 that reflects the interlinkages between achieving access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, while also striving to improve the quality and safety of water, to reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity, and to ensure attention to the needs of women and girls**, (PP6)

Deeply concerned also that **the lack of access to water and sanitation and hygiene underlies severe human costs such as poor health and high mortality rates**, and major economic losses, and affirming that affordability, **accessibility** and availability, as **human rights criteria**, require that **the use of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and services is accessible at a price that is affordable to all people**, (PP10)

Reaffirming the **responsibility of States to ensure the respect, promotion and protection of all human rights**, which are **universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, and must be treated globally, in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis**, (PP14)

Recalling also that the **human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation** are derived from the **right to an adequate standard of living** and are inextricably related to **the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**, as well as to **the right to life and human dignity**, (PP16)

Reaffirming the importance of eliminating discrimination and inequalities in the enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation on the grounds of race, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any other grounds, and with a view to eliminating discrimination and inequalities based on factors such as rural-urban disparities, substandard housing, income levels or other relevant considerations, (PP17)

Welcomes the recognition by the General Assembly of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation as components of the right to an adequate standard of living and essential for the full enjoyment of the right to life and all human rights; (OP1)

Also welcomes the recognition by the General Assembly that the human right to safe drinking water entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have access to sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use, and that the human right to sanitation entitles everyone, without discrimination, to have physical and affordable access to sanitation, in all spheres of life, that is safe, hygienic, secure, socially and culturally acceptable and that provides privacy and ensures dignity, while reaffirming that both rights are components of the right to an adequate standard of living; (OP2)

Reaffirms that States have the primary responsibility to ensure the full realization of all human rights and must take steps, nationally and through international assistance and cooperation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of their available resources, to achieve progressively the full realization of the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation by all appropriate means, including in particular the adoption of legislative measures in the implementation of their human rights obligations; (OP6)

Stresses the important role of international cooperation and technical assistance by States, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and international and development partners, as well as by donor agencies, in particular in the timely achievement of the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, and urges development partners to adopt a human rights-based approach when designing, implementing and monitoring development programmes in support of national initiatives and plans of action relating to the rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; (OP7)

Notes with concern that, in spite of all efforts, gender inequalities still exist in the realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and therefore calls upon States:

To identify, with a view to repealing and reforming them, all laws that have both direct and indirect discriminatory consequences with regard to the equal enjoyment of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as with regard to gender based violence; (OP9 (a))

To consider that gender-based inequalities are exacerbated when coupled with other grounds of discrimination and disadvantages, and therefore to use an “intersectionality lens” in policy initiatives, so that priority is given to and measures are taken, as necessary, for those most disadvantaged in the enjoyment of their rights to water and sanitation, including women and girls; (OP9 (d))

To increase collaboration between the water, sanitation and hygiene sector and other sectors, including the education, employment and health sectors, and to address inequalities on the

grounds of race, gender, age, **disability**, ethnicity, culture, religion and national or social origin or on any grounds, **with a view to progressively eliminating inequalities in a comprehensive manner;** (OP9 (e))

To develop water, sanitation and hygiene approaches, programmes and policies that enable the meaningful participation of women and girls at all stages of planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation; (OP9 (f))

Welcomes the work of the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the comprehensive, transparent and **inclusive consultations conducted with relevant and interested actors from all regions for his thematic reports** and the undertaking of country missions; (OP10)

Encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 6, with special regard to **the full realization of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation for all;** (OP12)

Encourages the Special Rapporteur to facilitate, including through **engagement with relevant stakeholders**, the **provision of technical assistance in the area of the implementation of the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation** (OP14)

6. Resolution 33/13 - [Human rights and indigenous peoples](#)

Abstract

The resolution welcomes the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the rights of indigenous peoples, the work of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and the work of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The resolution stresses the need to acknowledge traditional knowledge on and practices in health, and for intercultural approaches that are sensitive to the health needs of indigenous peoples. In addition, the resolution recognizes that indigenous women, youth, children and persons with disabilities face particular challenges and face multi-faceted and intersecting forms of discrimination in access to health services.

Extracts

Recognizing that indigenous women, youth, children and persons with disabilities face particular challenges and face multi-faceted and intersecting forms of discrimination in access to health services, (PP5)

Stressing the need to pay particular attention to the rights and special needs of indigenous women, children, youth, elders and persons with disabilities, and to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate violence and discrimination against indigenous women and girls, as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, (PP8)

Requests the Expert Mechanism to prepare a study, to be finalized by its tenth session, on good practices and challenges, including discrimination, in business and in access to financial services by indigenous peoples, in particular indigenous women and indigenous persons with disabilities, and to present it to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-sixth session; (OP4)

Decides to hold, at its thirty-sixth session, its half-day panel discussion on the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, with a special focus on challenges and good practices in achieving the ends of the Declaration, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to make the discussions fully accessible to persons with disabilities and to prepare a summary report of the discussion, to be submitted to the Human Rights Council prior to its thirty-eighth session; (OP5)

7. Resolution 33/15 - [National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights](#)

Abstract

The resolution highlights the important role that such national human rights institutions play, and will continue to play, in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, strengthening participation, in particular of civil society organizations, promoting the rule of law, developing and enhancing public awareness of those rights and fundamental freedoms, and contributing to the prevention of human rights violations and abuses.

Extracts

Welcoming the valuable participation and contribution of national human rights institutions to all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates, including, currently, the Commission on the Status of Women, **the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, their continuing efforts in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with regard to follow-up to the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, (PP6)

Commends the efforts made to date by all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/163, including the Commission on the Status of Women, **the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development, to further enhance the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to allow for their contribution to these United Nations mechanisms and processes, bearing in mind the relevant provisions dealing with their participation contained in General Assembly resolution 60/251, Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2, and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, and Commission on Human Rights resolution 2005/74, and encourages the continuation of these efforts; (OP24)

8. [Resolution 33/16 - Technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights](#)

Abstract

The resolution affirms that the promotion and the protection of human rights are key factors in ensuring a fair and equitable justice system and, ultimately, reconciliation and stability for the country. Further, the resolution welcomes, inter alia, the acceptance by Yemeni political parties to complete the political transition process on the basis of the Gulf Cooperation Council initiative and its implementation mechanism, and emphasizing the need for implementation of the recommendations made in the outcome document of the National Dialogue Conference and to complete the drafting of a new Constitution.

Extracts

Reiterates the commitments and obligations of the Government of Yemen to promote and protect the human rights of all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction, and in that connection recalls that Yemen is a party to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto on the involvement of children in armed conflict and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, **the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**, and the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto, and looks forward to the Government continuing its efforts to promote and protect human rights; (OP7)

9. Resolution 33/18 - [Preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights](#)

Abstract

The resolution recognizes that there are large disparities in maternal mortality and morbidity rates between countries, but also within countries, and between women with a high and a low income, and between those living in rural as against urban areas, and notes with concern that the risk of maternal mortality is highest for adolescent girls under 15 years of age, and that complications in pregnancy and childbirth are a leading cause of death among adolescent girls in developing countries, and recognizes also that the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity is exacerbated in armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies. Furthermore, the resolution expresses regret about the multitude of factors that can lead to maternal mortality and morbidity, including **lack of accessible and appropriate health-care services, information and education**, lack of access to emergency obstetric care, poverty, all types of malnutrition, harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, denial of contraception, unsafe abortion, discrimination against women, gender inequality and gender-based stereotypes.

Extracts

Recognizing that preventing maternal mortality and morbidity is one of the human rights priorities for all States, and reaffirming that **all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing**, (PP1)

Reaffirming **the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and their review conferences and outcome documents, and reaffirming also the resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women, and noting the adoption by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of its general comment No. 22 (2016) on the right to sexual and reproductive health, and **the adoption by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of its general comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities**, (PP3)

Taking into account General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “**Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**”, and its call to take the bold and transformative steps urgently needed to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path, **to ensure that no one will be left behind and to make efforts to reach the furthest behind first**, (PP5)

Recognizing that sexual and reproductive health and rights are integral to the progressive realization of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, and that **comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and services contain the interrelated and essential elements of availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and quality, on the basis of non-discrimination and formal and substantive equality, while including the need to address intersectional and multiple forms of discrimination**, (PP11)

Reaffirming that **the human rights of women include a woman’s right to have control over, and to decide freely and responsibly on, matters related to her sexuality, including sexual and reproductive health, free of coercion, discrimination and violence**, and that equal relationships between women and men in matters of sexual relations and reproduction, including **full respect for**

the integrity of the person, require mutual respect, consent and shared responsibility for sexual behaviour and its consequences, (PP13)

Bearing in mind the need to take measures, such as collecting disaggregated data and conducting surveys, to ensure that no one is left behind, especially women experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and are accounted for in official statistics, (PP15)

Regretting the multitude of factors that can lead to maternal mortality and morbidity, including lack of accessible and appropriate health-care services, information and education, lack of access to emergency obstetric care, poverty, all types of malnutrition, harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, denial of contraception, unsafe abortion, discrimination against women, gender inequality and gender-based stereotypes, (PP20)

Convinced that greater political will and commitment, international cooperation and technical assistance at all levels are urgently required to reduce the unacceptably high global rate of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, and **that the integration of a human rights-based approach can contribute positively to the common goal of reducing that rate,** (PP21)

Urges all States to renew their political commitment to eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity at the local, national, regional and international levels, and **to strengthen their efforts to address multiple and intersecting inequalities and to remove all barriers to access to sexual and reproductive health facilities, services, goods and information, and education, ensure the full and effective implementation of their human rights obligations,** and their commitments as addressed in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the outcome documents of the review processes, including the commitments relating to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, considering the Goals on improving maternal health and promoting gender equality and empowering women, and other interlinked Goals, by ensuring universal access to quality maternity, sexual and reproductive health-care services, including through international assistance and cooperation, the allocation of domestic resources to health systems and the provision of the necessary information and services in relation to the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls; (OP1)

Urges States and encourages other relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations, to take action at all levels, **utilizing a comprehensive human rights-based approach to address the interlinked causes of maternal mortality and morbidity, such as lack of accessible, affordable and appropriate health-care services for all,** and of information and education, poverty, all types of malnutrition, harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, early childbearing, gender inequalities and **all forms of discrimination and violence against women,** and to pay particular attention to eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, especially adolescent girls, while **ensuring the meaningful and effective participation of women and girls in the relevant processes;** (OP3)

Calls upon all relevant actors, including Governments, regional organizations, relevant United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to, within their respective mandates, **strengthen their efforts to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, including through the application of the technical guidance, as appropriate, when designing, implementing and reviewing policies and evaluating programmes to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity, while ensuring the meaningful participation of women and girls in all decisions that affect them;** (OP6)

Decides to convene, at its thirty-fourth session, **a panel discussion on the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals relating to preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and sexual and reproductive health and rights, and that the discussion shall be fully accessible to persons with disabilities,** and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the panel discussion in the form of a summary; (OP12)

10. Resolution 33/22 - [Equal participation in political and public affairs](#)

Abstract

The resolution reaffirms that every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions stipulated in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and without unreasonable restrictions, including based on **disability**, to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his or her country, and to vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, and reaffirming also that the will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government

Extracts

Reaffirming also that no distinctions are permitted among citizens in the enjoyment of the right to participate in the conduct of public affairs on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability, (PP4)

Emphasizing the critical importance of equal and effective participation in political and public affairs for democracy, the rule of law, social inclusion, economic development and advancing gender equality, and for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, (PP5)

Reaffirming that the active participation of women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making, is essential to the achievement of equality, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development, the rule of law, peace and democracy, (PP6)

Recognizing that the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly, to freedom of association, to education, and access to information, as well as inclusive economic empowerment, are among the essential conditions for equal participation in political and public affairs and must be promoted and protected, (PP7)

Welcoming the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes equal participation as a vital principle for achieving sustainable development, eradicating poverty and the realization of all human rights, (PP8)

Welcoming the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the special procedures, the treaty bodies and other relevant human rights mechanisms on identifying and addressing obstacles to the full implementation of the right to participate in public affairs, (PP10)

Expresses concern that, despite progress made towards the full implementation of the right to participate in public affairs worldwide, many people continue to face obstacles, such as discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, in the enjoyment of their right to participate in the public affairs of their countries as well as in the enjoyment of other human rights that enable it; (OP1)

Recognizes that women, persons belonging to marginalized groups or minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations are among those who are most affected by discrimination in participation in political and public affairs; (OP2)

Reaffirms the obligation of States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has an effective right and opportunity to equal participation in public affairs; (OP3)

Welcomes the expert workshop on existing guidance on the implementation of the right to participate in public affairs, and on challenges, gaps, opportunities, new developments, trends and innovations with respect to full, effective and equal participation in political and public affairs, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held on 18 May 2016, and the summary report thereon , and the efforts and initiatives at all levels aimed at facilitating, in law and in practice, full and effective participation in political and public affairs; (OP5)

Urges all States to ensure the full, effective and equal participation of all citizens in political and public affairs, including by, inter alia:

Taking all necessary measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability; (OP6 (c))

Taking proactive measures to eliminate all barriers in law and in practice that prevent or hinder citizens, in particular women, persons belonging to marginalized groups or minorities, persons with disabilities and persons in vulnerable situations, from participating fully and effectively in political and public affairs, including, inter alia, reviewing and repealing measures that unreasonably restrict the right to participate in public affairs, and considering adopting, on the basis of reliable data on participation, temporary special measures, including legislative acts, aimed at increasing the participation of underrepresented groups in all aspects of political and public life; (OP6 (d))

Taking appropriate measures to encourage publicly and promote the importance of participation of all citizens in political and public affairs, in particular women, persons belonging to marginalized groups or to minorities, and persons in vulnerable situations, including by engaging them in designing, evaluating and reviewing policies and legislation on participation in political and public affairs; (OP6 (e))

Developing and disseminating accessible information and educational materials on the political process and relevant international human rights law provisions to facilitate equal participation in political and public affairs; (OP6 (f))

Taking steps to promote and protect the voting rights of all those entitled to vote without any discrimination, including facilitation of voter registration and participation and the provision of electoral information and voting papers in a range of accessible formats and languages, as appropriate; (OP6 (g))

Exploring new forms of participation and opportunities brought about by new information and communications technology and social media as a means to improve and widen, online and offline, the exercise of the right to participate in public affairs, and other rights directly supporting and enabling it, and sharing examples of good practices in the use and wide accessibility of information and communications technology tools for the enhancement of equal participation in political and public affairs; (OP6(h))

Ensuring the rights of everyone to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and freedom of association, education and development, and facilitating equal and effective access to information, media and communications technology in order to enable pluralistic debates fostering inclusive and effective participation in political and public affairs; (OP6 (i))

Calls upon States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goals 5 and 16, with the participation of all stakeholders; (OP7)

Also requests the Office of the High Commissioner to facilitate open, transparent and inclusive elaboration of the guidelines through consultations with States and with the participation of relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, the Human Rights Committee and other treaty bodies, special procedures, regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, **civil society organizations, academia and **other relevant stakeholders, including through informal multi-stakeholder consultations at the regional level; (OP9)****

Invites the Office of the High Commissioner to consider examining in the draft guidelines, inter alia:

The effective implementation of all dimensions of the right to participate in public affairs for all rights holders, without discrimination or distinction of any kind, including at the national level, in all phases of the electoral process, between elections, outside the political process in the conduct of public affairs, and in access to public service, and on the participation of citizens, individually and in association with others, at the supranational level, including within international organizations; (OP10 (b))

11. Resolution 33/23 - [The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic](#)

Abstract

The resolution expresses its deep concern at the serious, continued violations of the cessation of hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic, demands that all parties to the cessation of hostilities in the Syrian Arab Republic redouble their efforts to fulfil their commitments, and urges all Member States, especially the members of the International Syria Support Group, to use their influence with the parties to the cessation of hostilities to ensure fulfilment of those commitments, and to support efforts to create conditions for a durable and lasting ceasefire, which is essential to achieving a political solution to the conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic and to bringing to an end the systematic, widespread and gross violations and abuses of human rights and violations of humanitarian law.

Extracts

Condemns all violations and abuses of international human rights law and all violations of international humanitarian law, including against women and children, and **persons with disabilities**, and urges all parties to the conflict not to commit indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population and civilian objects, including against medical facilities, personnel and transport and schools as such, to comply with their obligations under international humanitarian law and to respect international human rights law; (OP10)

12. Resolution 33/25 - [Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

Abstract

The resolution amends the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which shall provide the Human Rights Council with expertise and advice on the rights of indigenous peoples as set out in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and assist Member States upon request, to achieve the ends of the Declaration through the promotion, protection and fulfilment of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Extracts

Also decides that the annual meeting of the Expert Mechanism shall be open to the participation, as observers, of States, United Nations mechanisms, bodies and specialized agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and mechanisms in the field of human rights, national human rights institutions and other relevant national bodies, academics and experts on indigenous issues, and **non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; the meeting shall also be accessible to indigenous persons with disabilities** and open to indigenous peoples' organizations and non-governmental organizations whose aims and purposes are in conformity with the spirit, purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, based on arrangements, including Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996, through an open and transparent accreditation procedure in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Human Rights Council, which will provide for timely information on participation and consultation with the States concerned; (OP13)

13. Resolution 33/26 - [Technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan](#)

Extracts

Encourages the process of conducting a comprehensive, national dialogue in the Sudan with a view to achieving sustainable peace, and **encourages all Sudanese stakeholders to ensure an environment conducive to an inclusive, transparent and credible dialogue;** (OP4)

Notes the observation by the Independent Expert that despite some progress, the relevant parties have yet to implement many of the recommendations made in his report to the Human Rights Council at its thirtieth session, which included the following: for the Government of the Sudan to continue deepening its efforts to combat impunity, **to prevent the unlawful interference of government in the activities of civil society,** for the Government to provide to the National Commission for Human Rights additional financial resources necessary to fulfil its mandate, **to continue its efforts in the national dialogue to realize an inclusive, transparent process, and to work with all partners to facilitate humanitarian assistance;** for the international community to enhance its technical cooperation with and assistance to the Government, to pursue efforts to support national dialogue, **to continue to work closely with civil society stakeholders, and to provide internally displaced persons with humanitarian assistance;** and for opposition armed movements in the Sudan to take concrete action towards implementing the recommendations by previous mandate holders, in particular with regard to respect for human rights and international humanitarian law; (OP7)

Encourages the commitment of the Government of the Sudan to comprehensive national legal reform initiatives to guarantee further full compliance of the State with its constitutional and international human rights obligations, such as provisions of the Criminal Act, of 1991, including those which redefine the offence of rape and dissociate it from adultery, and those which introduce the offence of sexual harassment; the promulgation and implementation of the Act on Combating Human Trafficking and the Smuggling of Persons, the Anti-Corruption Act, and **the Act on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;** and the revision of the Press Act, the Community Protection Law at the state level, and the National Security Act; (OP20)

14. Resolution 33/27 - [Technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic](#)

Extracts

Remains deeply concerned by the conditions of displaced persons and refugees, and encourages the international community to support the national authorities and host countries to **ensure appropriate protection and support for victims of violence,** in particular women, children and persons with disabilities; (OP17)

15. Resolution 33/28 - [Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights](#)

Abstract

The resolution recognizes that the enhancement of international cooperation is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to prevent human rights violations and comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings. Further, the resolution acknowledges the role and impact of the activities of the relevant agencies of the United Nations and international and regional organizations, and the contribution of civil society organizations in providing States with technical support and assistance on the basis of the needs and requests of States concerned in the implementation of their human rights obligations and their voluntary pledges and commitments, including accepted universal periodic review recommendations. The resolution decides in accordance with paragraphs 3 and 4 of its resolution 18/18 of 29 September 2011, that the theme for the annual thematic panel discussion under agenda item 10 to be held during its thirty-fifth session will be “A decade of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the Human Rights Council: challenges and the way forward”.

Extracts

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, (PP1)

Recognizing that the **enhancement of international cooperation** is essential for the effective promotion and protection of human rights, which should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and **aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to prevent human rights violations and comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings** (PP3)

Encourages States, relevant international organizations, intergovernmental bodies and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to reflect on the achievements made and obstacles faced in their past efforts pertaining to technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights, and to deepen their dialogue and collaboration with a view to bolstering efforts to promote the enjoyment of human rights by all; (OP2)

Reiterates that the discussion to promote technical cooperation and capacitybuilding in the Human Rights Council should continue to be based on consultations with and the consent of the States concerned, and should take into account their needs, **as well as the fact that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and aim to make a concrete impact on the ground;** (OP3)

Reaffirms that technical cooperation should remain an inclusive exercise that engages and involves all national stakeholders, including government agencies and civil societies; (OP5)

Welcomes the panel discussion held under agenda item 10 at the thirty-first session of the Human Rights Council on the theme “Technical cooperation and capacitybuilding to promote and protect the rights of all migrants, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities”, in which participants underlined the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building in filling gaps and supporting States in overcoming challenges in the implementation of their national migration policies to promote and protect the rights of all migrants; (OP9)

16. Resolution 33/29 - [Technical assistance and capacity-building for human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

Abstract

The resolution encourages the efforts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to combat impunity, protect civilians and raise awareness among victims of sexual violence of their need for justice and assistance by, inter alia, the establishment by the office of the personal representative of the Head of State tasked with combating sexual violence and the recruitment of child soldiers of a helpline for victims of sexual violence, which has contributed to the fight against impunity for crimes under international law and sexual and gender-based violence. Nevertheless, the resolution expresses deep concerns about the continued violence and serious crimes, including sexual violence, that reportedly continue to be committed against members of the civilian population by armed groups and security forces in the eastern part of the country and about reports of the aggravation of violations of civil and political rights, particularly the freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly, committed by State actors in the context of important election events.

Extracts

Calls upon the Government to ensure equitable political participation for all, and to create without delay the conditions necessary for the holding of free, transparent, **inclusive** and peaceful elections, in particular in view of the legislative and presidential elections; (OP10)

Encourages the Government to provide greater protection for all political actors, civil society, journalists and human rights defenders during elections, and to ensure respect for all human rights; (OP19)