PART TWO
Human rights
Promotion of human rights

In 2014, the United Nations continued efforts to promote human rights worldwide. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which allowed individual children to submit complaints regarding specific violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two protocols, entered into force on 14 April, and in November, the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention. In other activities, the Secretary-General’s initiative, the Human Rights Up Front plan of action aimed at strengthening prevention of serious violations, was beginning to identify potential problems earlier.

The Human Rights Council examined the human rights record of 42 Member States through the universal periodic review mechanism, designed to assess the human rights record of all States every four years. During the year, the Council held three regular sessions (twenty-fifth, twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh). The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, which provided expertise to the Council, held its twelfth and thirteenth sessions and made 13 recommendations, while the Council’s complaint procedure, which consisted of the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations, addressed consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested human rights violations around the world.

In June, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General’s appointment of Prince Zeid Ra’ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and he began his four-year term on 1 September. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights continued to provide support to the work of the Council and its mechanisms, including the treaty bodies and special procedures, while strengthening its country engagement and expanding its presence at the country and regional levels. A notable trend was the continued and growing demand for the Office to deliver on multiple fronts.

During the year, the Council adopted the plan of action for the third phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education (2015–2019). The General Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) and proclaimed 13 June as “International Albinism Awareness Day”.

UN machinery

Human Rights Council

Council sessions

During the year the Human Rights Council held its twenty-fifth (3 March–28 March) [A/HRC/25/2], twenty-sixth (10–27 June) [A/HRC/26/2], and twenty-seventh (8–26 September) [A/HRC/27/2] regular sessions. The Council also held three special sessions: its twentieth (20 January) [A/HRC/S-20/2], on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic and technical assistance in the field of human rights (see p. 000); twenty-first (23 July) [A/HRC/S-21/2], on ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (see p. 000); and twenty-second (1 September) [A/HRC/S-22/4], on the human rights situation in Iraq in the light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups (see p. 000). All sessions were held in Geneva.

The Council adopted 105 resolutions, 47 decisions and six President’s statements, and brought to the attention of the General Assembly six resolutions for its consideration and possible action. The resolutions, decisions and statements adopted during the Council’s 2014 sessions were contained in its reports to the Assembly [A/69/53 & Add.1 & Corr.1&2].

On 15 September (decision 68/668), the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of Human Rights Council resolution 24/24 [YUN 2013, p. 591] until its sixty-ninth session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee [A/69/483], adopted resolution 69/155 by recorded vote (125-2-56) [agenda item 63].

Having considered the recommendations contained in the report of the Human Rights Council,

Takes note of the report of the Human Rights Council, including the addendum thereto, and its recommendations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/155:

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, São Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Belarus, Ireland.

Abstaining: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

Universal Periodic Review

The Human Rights Council established the universal periodic review (UPR) [YUN 2007, p. 663] as an instrument for assessing every four years the human rights records of all Member States. Each review, conducted by the UPR Working Group, was facilitated by groups of three States, or “troikas”, acting as rapporteurs.

Working Group sessions. The UPR Working Group, made up of the 47 Council members, held its eighteenth (27 January–7 February) [A/HRC/26/2], nineteenth (28 April–9 May) [A/HRC/27/2] and twentieth (27 October–7 November) [A/HRC/28/2] sessions in Geneva. It reviewed 42 countries in the order of consideration determined by the Council in 2007 [YUN 2007, p. 663]. As provided for in Council resolution 5/1 [ibid.], the review was based on a national report prepared by the State under review; a compilation by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) of information about the human rights situation in the State concerned, as reported by treaty bodies and special procedures; and a summary by OHCHR of credible information from other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

At its eighteenth session, the Working Group considered and adopted reports on New Zealand [A/HRC/26/3], Afghanistan [A/HRC/26/4], Chile [A/HRC/26/5], Viet Nam [A/HRC/26/6], Uruguay [A/HRC/26/7], Yemen [A/HRC/26/8], Vanuatu [A/HRC/26/9], Macedonia [A/HRC/26/10], Comoros [A/HRC/26/11], Slovakia [A/HRC/26/12], Eritrea [A/HRC/26/13], Cyprus [A/HRC/26/14], the Dominican Republic [A/HRC/26/15 & Corr.1] and Cambodia [A/HRC/26/16]. The reports summarized the presentation by the State under review; the interactive dialogue in the Working Group between State and Council; the response by the State, and the conclusions on, and/or recommendations to, the State under review. The review of the report comprised the report of the Working Group and the views of the States under review about the recommendations and/or conclusions, as well as its voluntary commitments and its replies to questions or issues that were not sufficiently addressed during the interactive dialogue.

Responses were submitted by New Zealand [A/HRC/26/3/Add.1], Afghanistan [A/HRC/26/4/Add.1], Chile [A/HRC/26/5/Add.1], Viet Nam [A/HRC/26/6/Add.1], Uruguay [A/HRC/26/7/Add.1], Vanuatu [A/HRC/26/8/Add.1], Macedonia [A/HRC/26/9/Add.1], Comoros [A/HRC/26/10/Add.1], the Dominican Republic [A/HRC/26/15/Add.1],ifr [A/HRC/26/16/Add.1], and Cambodia [A/HRC/26/16/Add.1].


Election of Council members

On 21 October, by decision 69/403, the General Assembly, pursuant to resolutions 60/251 [YUN 2006, p. 757] and 65/281 [YUN 2011, p. 607], elected the following 15 countries as members of the Human Rights Council for a three-year term of office beginning 1 January 2015: Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, the Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Paraguay, Portugal and Qatar. They would fill the vacancies occurring on the expiration of the terms of office of Austria, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Chile, the Congo, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Peru, the Philippines and Romania. The Council comprised 47 members.

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**Human Rights Council actions.** At its twenty-fifth session [A/HRC/25/2], the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the seventeenth session of the Working Group [YUN 2013, p. 593]. The Council adopted, through standardized decisions, the outcomes of the reviews on Saudi Arabia [dec. 25/101], Senegal [dec. 25/102], Nigeria [dec. 25/103], Mexico [dec. 25/104], Mauritius [dec. 25/105], Jordan [dec. 25/106], Malaysia [dec. 25/107], the Central African Republic [dec. 25/108], Belize [dec. 25/109], Chad [dec. 25/110], China [dec. 25/111], Monaco [dec. 25/112], the Congo [dec. 25/113], Malta [dec. 25/114] and Israel [dec. 25/115].

At its twenty-sixth session [A/HRC/26/2], the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the eighteenth session of the Working Group. The Council adopted the outcomes of the reviews on New Zealand [dec. 26/101], Afghanistan [dec. 26/102], Chile [dec. 26/103], Uruguay [dec. 26/104], Yemen [dec. 26/105], Vanuatu [dec. 26/106], Macedonia [dec. 26/107], Comoros [dec. 26/108], Slovakia [dec. 26/109], Eritrea [dec. 26/110], Cyprus [dec. 26/111], the Dominican Republic [dec. 26/112], Viet Nam [dec. 26/113] and Cambodia [dec. 26/114].

At its twenty-seventh session [A/HRC/27/2], the Council considered the outcome of the reviews conducted during the nineteenth session of the Working Group. The Council adopted the outcomes of the reviews on Norway [dec. 27/101], Albania [dec. 27/102], the Democratic Republic of the Congo [dec. 27/103], Côte d’Ivoire [dec. 27/104], Portugal [dec. 27/105], Bhutan [dec. 27/106], Dominica [dec. 27/107], the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea [dec. 27/108], Brunei Darussalam [dec. 27/109], Costa Rica [dec. 27/110], Equatorial Guinea [dec. 27/111], Ethiopia [dec. 27/112], Qatar [dec. 27/113], and Nicaragua [dec. 27/114].

**Reports of High Commissioner.** In her annual report [A/69/36], the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navanethem Pillay (South Africa), noted that the second cycle of the UPR continued with a 100 per cent rate of participation during 2013 and 2014 with an average of 120 recommendations issued per country. As at July 2014, more than 20,000 recommendations had been indexed.

In a December report [A/HRC/28/3], the newly appointed High Commissioner, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein (Jordan) (see p. 000), noted that the UPR had reached the middle of its second cycle in November, and all 112 States scheduled for consideration had participated, most at a high level. The review focused on progress made since the first cycle. The challenge was to follow up on the growing number of recommendations and keeping the overall objective of bringing about impact on the ground.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 27 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/29)], the Council encouraged States to promote the involvement of parliaments in all stages of the UPR reporting process; welcomed the growing practice by States under review of including parliamentarians in their national delegations to the UPR and encouraged States to continue that practice; and invited the High Commissioner to provide the Council with regular updates on the activities of the Inter-Parliamentary Union on parliamentary capacity-building, as well as on its activities with regard to the work of the Council and its UPR.

**Voluntary funds.**

**OHCHR reports.** In April [A/HRC/26/54], OHCHR, in accordance with Council decision 17/119 [YUN 2011, p. 613], provided an update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the UPR (VFFTA) [YUN 2007, p. 663], established to be administered jointly with the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR [ibid.] (see below) to provide assistance to help countries implement recommendations emanating from the UPR. The report reviewed contributions and expenditures as at 31 December 2013, provided a description of action taken since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 594] to operationalize the Fund and described activities to be funded during 2014. In 2012 and 2013, the Fund received voluntary contributions from four countries totalling $1,722,332, while expenditures amounted to $1,169,271. The balance of the fund as at 31 December 2013 was $1,813,869.
In March [A/HRC/25/36], in accordance with Council resolution 16/22 [YUN 2011, p. 638], OHCHR provided an update on the operations of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR and on resources available to it as at 31 December 2013. In 2013, the Fund received voluntary contributions from five countries totalling $338,993, while expenditures amounted to $209,733. The balance of the fund as at 31 December 2013 stood at $2,166,128.

**Human Rights Council Advisory Committee**

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, a think-tank for the Council composed of 18 experts serving in their personal capacity, held its twelfth (24–28 February) [A/HRC/AC/12/2] and thirteenth (11–15 August) [A/HRC/AC/13/2 & Corr.1] sessions in Geneva. At its twelfth session, the Committee requested an extension of time to submit a progress and final report on best practices and main challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations, respectively, to the Council’s twenty-seventh (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/1]; and to submit an interim and final report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) session [rec. 12/2], and to submit to the Committee the Council dealt with the right to food and the promotion of the right of peoples to peace.

At its thirteenth session, the Committee requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3]. The Committee also requested its relevant drafting group to submit the progress report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) and twenty-eighth (2015) sessions [rec. 12/3].

**Complaint procedure**

The complaint procedure of the Human Rights Council comprised of the Working Group on Communications, which examined communications of alleged violations and assessed their merits, and the Working Group on Situations, which, on the recommendation of the Working Group on Communications, reported to the Council on consistent patterns of gross violations and recommended a course of action.

**Working Group on Communications.** The five-member Working Group on Communications held its fourteenth (28 April–2 May) [A/HRC/WG.5/14/R.2],
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Observations of treaty bodies relating to the States concerned. The Working Group referred the case regarding Cameroon to the Council’s twenty-fifth (2014) session. It decided to keep under review until its next session cases concerning Colombia, Pakistan, the United States of America and Viet Nam.

At its fourteenth session, the Working Group had before it dossiers relating to Colombia, Kazakhstan, Mexico, Pakistan, the United States of America and Viet Nam. The Working Group did not refer any cases to the Council. It decided to keep under review until its next session the cases of Kazakhstan and Viet Nam, and dismissed the cases on Colombia, Mexico, Pakistan and the United States of America.

**Human Rights Council action.** In March [A/HRC/25/2] and September [A/HRC/27/2], the Council held closed meetings of the complaint procedure and examined the human rights situation in Cameroon. In September, it decided to discontinue the consideration of the situation in Cameroon.

**Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**Appointment.** On 16 June, the General Assembly approved the Secretary-General’s appointment of Prince Zeid Ra’ad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for a four-year term, beginning on 1 September 2014 (decision 68/420).

**Reports of High Commissioner.** In her final annual report to the General Assembly [A/69/36], covering activities since the previous report [YUN 2013, p. 595], the High Commissioner, Navanethem Pillay (South Africa), noted that the period under review confirmed the positive trends featured in previous reports, notably the steadily increasing attention to human rights in the context of peace, security and development by a growing number of States and intergovernmental bodies, as well as the determination within the United Nations to mainstream human rights throughout the work of the Organization, as illustrated by the Secretary-General’s Human Rights Up Front plan of action, and his policies on the human rights due diligence and human rights screening of UN personnel. Another trend was the continued and growing demand for OHCHR to deliver on multiple fronts. On the other hand, long-lasting challenges hampered the protection of human rights, including prolonged or chronic violence and conflicts; persistent economic and social crises, poverty and deprivation; discrimination, inequality and intolerance on many grounds; and restrictions and attacks on civil society, human rights defenders and whistle-blowers in all regions. The Office continued to implement its six thematic priorities for 2014–2017: strengthening international human rights mechanisms; enhancing equality and countering discrimination; combating...
impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law; integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere; early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity; and a new thematic priority for OHCHR, widening the democratic space.

In his first annual report to the Council [A/HRC/28/3], covering 2014, the newly appointed High Commissioner, Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, stated that the Office conducted monitoring missions, issued public reports on human rights developments in various States, and deployed teams to provide advice on human rights responses in crisis situations. It also delivered a considerable number of technical assistance activities upon the request of States. He highlighted the growing trend of requests for OHCHR support, which had continued with the creation of new mandates from intergovernmental bodies, calls for technical assistance from States, and intensified engagement within the UN system in the security, development and humanitarian contexts, including with respect to the Human Rights Up Front plan of action. With regard to the plan of action, which was in its infancy, the United Nations was beginning to identify potential problems earlier, and in severe situations, human rights were given more system-wide attention. Noting the significant gap between the increasing demands and the capacity available, the High Commissioner called for renewed political and financial support for States. As at November, OHCHR supported 67 field presences: 13 country/stand-alone offices, 14 human rights components of UN peace missions, 12 regional offices/centres and 28 human rights advisers with UN country teams.

Composition of staff

Report of High Commissioner. As requested by the Human Rights Council in resolution 22/2 [YUN 2013, p. 596], the High Commissioner in June reported [A/HRC/27/18] on the composition of OHCHR staff and on further efforts to correct the imbalance and achieve equitable geographical representation. As at 31 December 2013, OHCHR had 579 staff members in the Professional category and above, of whom 503 were considered regular staff; 49 per cent from Western Europe and other States, 15.8 per cent from Africa, 14 per cent from Asia, 13 per cent from Latin America and the Caribbean and 8.2 per cent from Eastern Europe. Nationals from 117 countries were represented in the Professional and above workforce, in both geographical and non-geographical posts. Of those 117 nationalities, 14 were underrepresented, 81 were considered within range and 22 were overrepresented. Women accounted for 54.6 per cent of all staff at the Professional and above level.

Secretariat note. By a 25 June note [A/HRC/27/19], the secretariat advised that the follow-up review of OHCHR management and administration, in particular with regard to its recruitment policies and the composition of the staff, which was mandated by Council resolution 22/2 [YUN 2013, p. 596], had been included in the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) 2014 programme of work and was well under way. However, due to JIU procedural requirements, it was not feasible for the Unit to submit the results of the review to the Council’s twenty-seventh (2014) session, and that it would do so at the twenty-eighth (2015) session.

Other aspects

Good governance

Report of High Commissioner. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 19/20 [YUN 2012, p. 598], the High Commissioner submitted a report [A/HRC/25/27] on the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, which highlighted the major challenges and presented a compilation of good practices based on submissions received from States, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, an NGO and an observer to the United Nations. The report concluded with a number of practical measures that could be adopted to further the implementation of a human rights approach to public services. It also highlighted the need for human rights-based policy coherence and coordination to support public service improvements globally and for better synergy between international financial institutions and UN mechanisms.

Advisory Committee report. Pursuant to Council resolution 23/9 [YUN 2013, p. 596], the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, in May, submitted a progress report [A/HRC/26/42] on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, which provided an update on its preparation, including responses received from various stakeholders to a questionnaire that had been circulated and discussions on the preliminary research-based report [A/HRC/AC/12/CRP.3] at the Committee’s twelfth (2014) session (see p. 000). The Committee was encouraged to continue its work on the draft report.


On 26 June [A/69/53 (dec. 26/115)], the Council, noting the Advisory Committee’s request at its twelfth (2014) session (see p. 000) to extend the time schedule for the research-based report on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights to allow for analysis of the numerous responses received
Role of prevention

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/16 [YUN 2013, p. 597], OHCHR convened at the Council’s twenty-seventh (2014) session a panel discussion on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights (Geneva, 18 September) and submitted a summary report [A/HRC/28/30] on its outcome. Participants agreed that, while there were mechanisms and tools for prevention at the national and international levels, their implementation was patchy and needed to be improved. There was general support for the idea to further develop the concept of prevention through evidence-based research. In addition to accountability and action to combat impunity and implement the rule of law, other conditions highlighted for the effective prevention of human rights violations included tackling risk factors and providing good governance and a democratic system.

Human rights instruments


The 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide [YUN 1948–49, p. 959, GA res. 260 A (III)] did not establish a treaty body, but the mandate of the Office of the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide [YUN 2004, p. 730] included collecting information on situations where there might be a risk of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity; alerting relevant actors where such a risk existed; and advocating and mobilizing for appropriate action.

Effective implementation of international human rights instruments

Secretariat note. By a 9 December note [A/HRC/28/21], the secretariat advised that due to overlapping reporting obligations resulting from a request in resolution 68/268 (see below), submission of the Secretary-General’s report on the effective implementation of international human rights instruments, pursuant to Council resolution 9/8 [YUN 2008, p. 725], was postponed until the Council’s twenty-ninth (2015) session.

Report of Third Committee. On 3 December [A/69/488/Add.1], the Third Committee of the General Assembly reported on the implementation of human rights instruments.

On 18 December, the General Assembly took note (decision 69/534).

Intergovernmental process

Open-ended intergovernmental process. In April, the General Assembly President transmitted a report [A/68/832] of the co-facilitators on the open-ended intergovernmental process to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on how to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The co-facilitators—Greta Gunnarsdottir (Iceland) and Mohamed Khaled Khiai (Tunisia) reported on their
activities during the resumed sixty-eighth (2014) session of the General Assembly, including informal meetings, bilateral consultations and discussions and continued engagement with the Chairs of treaty bodies. The process was concluded on 11 February when the co-facilitators submitted the final text to the Assembly President. The report provided an overview of the 34 issues discussed in the intergovernmental process. The narrative on each issue reflected the proposal put to the intergovernmental process and was followed by a conclusion that was based on the views of the co-facilitators after their consultations with States.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 9 April [meeting 81], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/268 [drafts A/68/L.37] without vote [agenda item 125].

Strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system

The General Assembly,
Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and relevant international human rights instruments,
Underlining the obligation that States have to promote and protect human rights and to carry out the responsibilities that they have undertaken under international law, especially the Charter, as well as various international instruments in the field of human rights, including under international human rights treaties,
Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985,
Recalling also its resolution 66/254 of 23 February 2012, by which it launched the intergovernmental process of the General Assembly on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, and its resolutions 66/295 of 17 September 2012 and 68/2 of 20 September 2013, by which it extended the intergovernmental process,
Recalling further its relevant resolutions on the human rights treaty bodies,
Reaffirming that the full and effective implementation of international human rights instruments by States parties is of major importance for the efforts of the United Nations to promote universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms and that the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is indispensable for the full and effective implementation of such instruments,
Recognizing the important, valuable and unique role and contribution of each of the human rights treaty bodies in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including through their examination of the progress made by States parties to the respective human rights treaties in fulfilling their relevant obligations and their provision of recommendations to States parties on the implementation of such treaties,
Reaffirming the importance of the independence of the human rights treaty bodies,

Reaffirming also that the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies is essential for the performance of their duties and responsibilities in line with the respective treaties, and recalling the requirement that they be individuals of high moral standing serving in their personal capacity,

Recognizing that States have a legal obligation under the international human rights treaties to which they are party to periodically submit to the relevant human rights treaty bodies reports on the measures they have taken to give effect to the provisions of the relevant treaties, and noting the need to increase the level of compliance in this regard,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and be aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Emphasizing the importance of multilingualism in the activities of the United Nations, including those linked to the promotion and protection of human rights, and reaffirming the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations for the effective functioning of the human rights treaty bodies,

Recognizing that the current allocation of resources has not allowed the human rights treaty body system to work in a sustainable and effective manner, and in this regard also recognizing the importance of providing, under the existing procedures of the General Assembly, adequate funding to the human rights treaty body system from the regular budget of the United Nations,

Recognizing also the importance of continued efforts to improve the efficiency of the working methods of the human rights treaty body system,

Recognizing further the importance and added value of capacity-building and technical assistance provided in consultation with and with the consent of the States parties concerned to ensure the full and effective implementation of and compliance with the international human rights treaties,

Recalling that certain international human rights instruments include provisions regarding the venue of the meetings of the committees, and mindful of the importance of the full engagement of all States parties in the interactive dialogue with the human rights treaty bodies,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General on measures to improve further the effectiveness, harmonization and reform of the human rights treaty body system,

Noting with appreciation the initiative and efforts of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in the form of a multi-stakeholder consultation approach for reflecting on how to streamline and strengthen the human rights treaty body system,

Noting that the multi-stakeholder approach consisted of a number of meetings involving representatives of Member States, human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations and academia, including events hosted by a number of Member States,

Taking note of the report of the High Commissioner on strengthening the United Nations human rights treaty body system, which includes recommendations addressed to different stakeholders,

Taking note also of the report of the co-facilitators on the open-ended intergovernmental process on how to strengthen
and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts of the President of the General Assembly and the co-facilitators in the framework of the intergovernmental process,

Noting the participation and contributions of Member States in the intergovernmental process, as well as experts of the human rights treaty bodies, national human rights institutions, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and non-governmental organizations,

Emphasizing that strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system is a common goal shared by stakeholders who have different legal competencies in accordance with the Charter and the international human rights instruments establishing treaty bodies, and recognizing in this regard the ongoing efforts of different treaty bodies towards strengthening and enhancing their effective functioning,

1. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to offer to States parties for their consideration the simplified reporting procedure and to set a limit on the number of the questions included;

2. Encourages States parties to consider the possibility of using the simplified reporting procedure, when offered, to facilitate the preparation of their reports and the interactive dialogue on the implementation of their treaty obligations;

3. Also encourages States parties to consider submitting a common core document and updating it as appropriate, as a comprehensive document or in the form of an appendix to the original document, bearing in mind the most recent developments in the particular State party, and in this regard encourages the human rights treaty bodies to further elaborate their existing guidelines on the common core document in a clear and consistent manner;

4. Decides, without prejudice to the formulation of the annual report of each human rights treaty body as laid out in the respective treaty, that the annual reports of treaty bodies are not to contain documents published separately and referenced therein;

5. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to collaborate towards the elaboration of an aligned methodology for their constructive dialogue with the States parties, bearing in mind the views of States parties as well as the specificity of the respective committees and of their mandates, with the aim of making the dialogue more effective, maximizing the use of the time available and allowing for a more interactive and productive dialogue with States parties;

6. Also encourages the human rights treaty bodies to adopt short, focused and concrete concluding observations, including the recommendations therein, that reflect the dialogue with the relevant State party, and to this end further encourages them to develop common guidelines for the elaboration of such concluding observations, bearing in mind the specificity of the respective committees and of their mandates, as well as the views of States parties;

7. Recommends the more efficient and effective use of the meetings of States parties, inter alia, by proposing and organizing discussions on matters related to the implementation of each treaty;

8. Strongly condemns all acts of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups for their contribution to the work of the human rights treaty bodies, and urges States to take all appropriate action, consistent with the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and all other relevant human rights instruments, to prevent and eliminate such human rights violations;

9. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to continue to enhance their efforts towards achieving greater efficiency, transparency, effectiveness and harmonization through their working methods, within their respective mandates, and in this regard encourages the treaty bodies to continue to review good practices regarding the application of rules of procedure and working methods in their ongoing efforts towards strengthening and enhancing their effective functioning, bearing in mind that these activities should fall under the provisions of the respective treaties, thus not creating new obligations for States parties;

10. Encourages States parties to continue their efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights, in particular in the field covered by the relevant treaty, and, as appropriate, to consider adopting national policies or processes with respect to the nomination of experts as candidates for human rights treaty bodies;

11. Recommends that the Economic and Social Council consider replacing the existing procedure for the election of experts to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with a meeting of States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, while preserving the current structure, organization and administrative arrangement of the Committee as set forth in Council resolution 1985/17;

12. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to include in the documentation prepared for elections of members of human rights treaty bodies at meetings of States parties an information note on the current situation with respect to the composition of the treaty body, reflecting the balance in terms of geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems, as well as the tenure of current members;

13. Encourages States parties, in the election of treaty body experts, to give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instruments, to equitable geographical distribution, the representation of the different forms of civilization and the principal legal systems, balanced gender representation and the participation of experts with disabilities in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies;

14. Encourages the human rights treaty bodies to develop an aligned consultation process for the elaboration of general comments that provides for consultation with States parties in particular and bears in mind the views of other stakeholders during the elaboration of new general comments;

15. Decides, in line with established practice with respect to other United Nations documentation, to establish a limit of 10,700 words for each document produced by the human rights treaty bodies, and further recommends that word limits also be applied for relevant stakeholders;

16. Also decides to establish word limits for all State party documentation submitted to the human rights treaty body system, including State party reports, of 31,800 words for initial reports, 21,200 words for subsequent periodic reports.
and 42,400 words for common core documents, as endorsed by the human rights treaty bodies, and calls upon the treaty bodies to set a limit on the number of questions posed, focusing on areas seen as priority issues to ensure the ability of States parties to meet the aforementioned word limits;

17. Requests the Secretary-General, through the Office of the High Commissioner, to support States parties in building the capacity to implement their treaty obligations and to provide in this regard advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building, in line with the mandate of the Office, in consultation with and with the consent of the State concerned, by:

(a) Deploying a dedicated human rights capacity-building officer in every regional office of the Office of the High Commissioner, as required;

(b) Strengthening cooperation with relevant regional human rights mechanisms within regional organizations to provide technical assistance to States in reporting to human rights treaty bodies, including through the training of trainees;

(c) Developing a roster of experts on treaty body reporting, reflecting geographical distribution and gender representation, professional background and different legal systems;

(d) Providing direct assistance to States parties at the national level by building and developing institutional capacity for reporting and strengthening technical knowledge through ad hoc training on reporting guidelines at the national level;

(e) Facilitating the sharing of best practices among States parties;

18. Underlines the need to provide further support to States parties through, inter alia, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and in conjunction with the provision of technical assistance, with a focus on measures to build sustainable capacity in their activities to fulfil their treaty obligations, and encourages all Member States to contribute to the Fund;

19. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to work with the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system and United Nations country teams, in line with their respective mandates and at the request of States parties, to assist States parties in fulfilling their obligations under international human rights treaties through:

(a) The provision of advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building to States parties for the preparation of reports to human rights treaty bodies;

(b) The development of programmatic responses, in close coordination with the relevant States parties, to support their compliance with treaty obligations;

20. Recognizes that some States parties consider that they would benefit from improved coordination of reporting at the national level, and requests the Office of the High Commissioner to include among its technical assistance activities relevant assistance in this regard, at the request of a State party, based on best practices;

21. Encourages Member States to provide voluntary funds to facilitate the engagement of States parties, in particular those without representation in Geneva, with the human rights treaty bodies;

22. Decides, in principle, with the aim of enhancing the accessibility and visibility of the human rights treaty bodies and in line with the report of the Committee on Information on its thirty-fifth session, to webcast, as soon as feasible, the public meetings of the treaty bodies, and requests the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to report on the feasibility of providing, in all of the official languages used in the respective committees, live webcasts and video archives that are available, accessible, searchable and secure, including from cyberattacks, of relevant meetings of the treaty bodies;

23. Requests the Office of the High Commissioner, with the assistance of United Nations country teams through their existing videoconferencing facilities, as appropriate, to provide, at the request of a State party, the opportunity for members of its official delegation not present at the meeting to participate in the consideration of the report of that State party by means of videoconference in order to facilitate wider participation in the dialogue;

24. Underlines the need for summary records of the dialogue of human rights treaty bodies with States parties, and in this regard decides to issue summary records in one of the working languages of the United Nations and not to translate the pending backlog of summary records, taking into account that these measures will not constitute a precedent, given the special nature of the treaty bodies, and bearing in mind the aim of providing, through alternative methods, verbatim records of the meetings of the treaty bodies in all of the official languages of the United Nations;

25. Decides that a summary record of a meeting of a State party with a treaty body, at the request of any State party, shall be translated into the official language of the United Nations used by that State party;

26. Also decides that the allocation of meeting time to the treaty bodies will be identified in the following manner, and requests the Secretary-General to provide the corresponding financial and human resources:

(a) An allocation of the number of weeks that each treaty body requires to review the reports of States parties it can expect annually, using the average number of reports received per committee during the period from 2009 to 2012, on the basis of an assumed attainable rate of review of at least 2.5 reports per week and where relevant at least 5 reports under the Optional Protocols to the human rights treaties per week;

(b) A further allocation of two weeks of meeting time per committee to allow for mandated activities, plus an allocation of additional meeting time to those committees dealing with individual communications, on the basis of each such communication requiring 1.3 hours of meeting time for review and the average number of such communications received per year by those committees;

(c) An additional margin to prevent the recurrence of backlogs is established as a target 5 per cent increase in reporting compliance allocated among the committees to address their expected workload, at the beginning of each biennium, with a temporary target increase of 15 per cent for the period from 2015 to 2017;

(d) An adequate allocation of financial and human resources to those treaty bodies whose main mandated role is to carry out field visits;

27. Further decides that the amount of meeting time allocated will be reviewed biennially on the basis of actual reporting during the previous four years and will be amended on this basis at the request of the Secretary-
General in line with established budgetary procedures, and decides that the number of weeks allocated to a committee on a permanent basis prior to the adoption of the present resolution will not be reduced;

28. **Requests** the Secretary-General accordingly to take into account the meeting time needed in relation to the increased capacity of States parties to submit reports under the respective human rights instruments and the situation in terms of ratifications and the number of individual communications considered, based on paragraphs 26 and 27 above, in his future biennial programme budget for the human rights treaty body system, including the specific requirements for field visits by treaty bodies mandated to conduct such visits;

29. **Also requests** the Secretary-General to ensure the progressive implementation of relevant accessibility standards with regard to the human rights treaty body system, as appropriate, particularly in connection with the strategic framework plan being developed for the United Nations Office at Geneva, and to provide reasonable accommodation for treaty body experts with disabilities to ensure their full and effective participation;

30. **Decides** to allocate a maximum of three official working languages for the work of the human rights treaty bodies, with the inclusion, on an exceptional basis, of a fourth official language, when necessary to facilitate communication among the members, as determined by the committee concerned, taking into account that these measures will not constitute a precedent, given the special nature of the treaty bodies, and without prejudice to the right of each State party to interact with the treaty bodies in any of the six official languages of the United Nations;

31. **Requests** the Secretary-General to improve the efficiency of the current arrangement with regard to the travel of treaty body experts in line with section VI of resolution 67/254 A of 12 April 2013;

32. **Invites** States parties, as applicable and as an exceptional measure, with a view to achieving greater compliance with reporting obligations by States parties and eliminating the backlog of reports and in agreement with the relevant treaty body, to submit one combined report to satisfy its reporting obligations to the treaty body for the entire period for which reports are outstanding at the time of the adoption of the present resolution;

33. **Invites** the human rights treaty bodies, as an exceptional measure, and with a view to eliminating the current backlog of reports, without prejudice to the existing practices of the human rights treaty bodies or to the right of a State party to provide, or a treaty body to request, a short agenda for the purposes of reflecting the significant and relevant recent national developments, to consider all State party reports which at the date of the present resolution have been submitted and are awaiting consideration to satisfy the reporting obligation of the State party concerned to the relevant treaty body until the completion of a reporting cycle starting from the time of the consideration of the report of the State party concerned;

34. **Invites** the human rights treaty bodies and the Office of the High Commissioner, within their respective mandates, to continue to work to increase coordination and predictability in the reporting process, including through cooperation with States parties, with the aim of achieving a clear and regularized schedule for reporting by States parties;

35. **Reaffirms** the importance of the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies, and underlines the importance of all stakeholders of the treaty body system, as well as the Secretariat, respecting fully the independence of treaty body members and the importance of avoiding any act that would interfere with the exercise of their functions;

36. **Notes** the adoption, at the twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies, held in Addis Ababa from 25 to 29 June 2012, of the guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies (the Addis Ababa guidelines), which are aimed at ensuring objectivity, impartiality and accountability within the treaty body system, in full respect for the independence of the treaty bodies, and in this regard encourages the treaty bodies to implement the guidelines in accordance with their mandates;

37. **Encourages** the human rights treaty bodies to continue to consider and review the Addis Ababa guidelines, inter alia, by seeking the views of States parties and other stakeholders on their development, and in this regard invites the Chairs of the treaty bodies to keep States parties updated on their implementation;

38. **Also encourages** the human rights treaty bodies, with a view to accelerating the harmonization of the treaty body system, to continue to enhance the role of their Chairs in relation to procedural matters, including with respect to formulating conclusions on issues related to working methods and procedural matters, promptly generalizing good practices and methodologies among all treaty bodies, ensuring coherence across the treaty bodies and standardizing working methods;

39. **Further encourages** the human rights treaty bodies to strengthen the possibilities for interaction during the annual meetings of the Chairs of the treaty bodies with States parties to all human rights treaties, held in Geneva and New York, with a view to ensuring a forum for an open and formal interactive dialogue in which all issues, including those related to the independence and impartiality of treaty body members, may be raised by States parties in a constructive manner;

40. **Requests** the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, on a biennial basis, a comprehensive report on the status of the human rights treaty body system and the progress achieved by the human rights treaty bodies in realizing greater efficiency and effectiveness in their work, including the number of reports submitted and reviewed by the committees, the visits undertaken and the individual communications received and reviewed, where applicable, the state of the backlog, capacity-building efforts and the results achieved, as well as the situation in terms of ratifications, increased reporting and the allocation of meeting time and proposals on measures, including on the basis of information and observations from Member States, to enhance the engagement of all States parties in the dialogue with the treaty bodies;

41. **Decides** to consider the state of the human rights treaty body system no later than six years from the date of adoption of the present resolution, to review the effectiveness of the measures taken in order to ensure their sustainability, and, if appropriate, to decide on further action to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system.
Convention against racial discrimination

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, the number of parties to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2106 A (XX) [YUN 1965, p. 440], stood at 177, with the State of Palestine becoming party during the year.

The amendment to article 8 of the Convention, regarding the financing of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination [YUN 1992, p. 714], had been accepted by 45 States parties as at 31 December. The amendment would enter into force when accepted by a two-thirds majority of States parties, comprising approximately 118 of the 177 States parties to the Convention. The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention as at 1 August [A/69/329].

In August, the Secretary-General reported [A/69/328] that outstanding States parties’ arrears to the Committee, as at 31 July, totalled $105,791. A number of States parties were in arrears as a result of the non-payment of previous assessments. Financing for the annual sessions of the Committee in 2013 and 2014 was provided from the regular budget, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/111 [YUN 1992, p. 769].

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, established under article 8 of the Convention, held its eighty-fourth (3–21 February) [A/69/18] and eighty-fifth (11–29 August) [A/70/18] sessions in Geneva. It considered reports submitted by 15 countries (Belgium, Cameroon, El Salvador, Estonia, Honduras, Iraq, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Peru, Poland, Switzerland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan) and adopted concluding observations on them.

With regard to the Convention’s implementation by States parties whose reports were seriously overdue, the Committee noted that 30 States were at least 10 years late in submitting their reports, and 27 States were at least five years late.

Under article 14 of the Convention, the Committee considered communications from individuals or groups claiming violations by a State party of their rights as enumerated in the Convention. Fifty-seven States parties had recognized the competence of the Committee to do so.

Pursuant to article 15 of the Convention, which empowered the Committee to consider petitions, reports and other information relating to trust and non-self-governing territories, the Committee noted, as it had done in the past, that it was difficult to fulfil its functions comprehensively owing to the fact that the copies of the reports received contained only scant information directly relating to the principles and objectives of the Convention. It further noted that there was significant ethnic diversity in a number of the non-self-governing territories, warranting a close watch on incidents or trends that reflected racial discrimination and violations of rights guaranteed in the Convention.

The Committee considered a number of situations under its early warning and urgent action procedure, including situations in Guyana, India and Kenya.

(For information on the Organization’s activities to combat racial discrimination, see also p. 000.)

Complementary standards

The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of Complementary Standards, established by the Council in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 774], held its sixth session (Geneva, 7–17 October) [A/HRC/28/81]. Substantive discussions took place on the topics of xenophobia; prevention and awareness-raising; the OHCHR questionnaire conducted pursuant to Council resolution 21/30 [YUN 2012, p. 603]; special measures to prevent, combat and eradicate all forms and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; establishment, designation or maintaining of national mechanisms with competences to protect against and prevent all forms and manifestations of racism, and procedural gaps with regard to the Convention.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/486], adopted resolution 69/161 without vote [agenda item 66 (a)].

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

The General Assembly,
Recalling its resolution 67/156 of 20 December 2012,
Recalling also its resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,
1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and invites the Secretary-General to follow up with States parties that are in arrears, as articulated in the report, to fulfil their outstanding financial obligations under article 8, paragraph 6, of the Convention;
3. Further takes note of the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on its eighty-first and eighty-second and its eighty-third and eighty-fourth sessions;
4. **Reiterates**, in the run-up to the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention, its call for the universal ratification and effective implementation of the Convention by all States parties to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination;

5. **Invites** the Chair of the Committee to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and to engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-first session under the item entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”;

6. **Decides** to consider, at its seventy-first session, under the item entitled “Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, the reports of the Committee on its eighty-fifth and eighty-sixth and its eighty-seventh and eighty-eighth sessions, the report of the Secretary-General on the financial situation of the Committee, should the financial situation of the Committee change, and the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention.

**Covenant on civil and political rights and optional protocols**

**Accessions and ratification**

As at 31 December, the parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 423], stood at 168 and 115, respectively. The State of Palestine became party to the Covenant during the year.

The Second Optional Protocol, aimed at the abolition of the death penalty and adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/128 [YUN 1989, p. 484], was acceded to by El Salvador and Gabon, and ratified by Poland during the year, bringing the number of States parties to 81.

**Implementation**

**Monitoring body.** The Human Rights Committee, established under article 28 of the Covenant, held three sessions in 2014: its 110th (10–28 March) [A/69/40 (Vol. I)], 111th (8–25 July) and 112th (7–31 October) [A/70/40] in Geneva. It considered reports submitted under article 40 from 18 States (Burundi, Chad, Chile, Georgia, Haiti, Israel, Ireland, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, the United States of America), and adopted concluding observations on them.

The Committee adopted views on communications from individuals alleging violations of their rights under the Covenant, and decided that other such communications were inadmissible. Those views and decisions were accessible through the treaty body database on the OHCHR.

During its 110th session, the Committee adopted a note on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on new communications and interim measures. Under article 36 of the Covenant, the Committee reaffirmed its grave concern over the lack of sufficient staff resources and translation services, which hampered its activities.

Pursuant to article 4 of the Covenant, certain States parties notified other States parties, through the intermediary of the Secretary-General, of the derogations of certain obligations under the Covenants due to public emergency. All such notifications were available on the website of the Office of Legal Affairs.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (decision 69/536) took note of the report of the Human Rights Committee on its 108th, 109th [YUN 2013, p. 600] and 110th sessions.

(On the Organization’s efforts to protect civil and political rights, see also p. 000.)

**Covenant on economic, social and cultural rights and optional protocol**

**Accessions and ratification**

As at 31 December, there were 162 parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 2200 A (XXI) [YUN 1966, p. 419]. The State of Palestine acceded to the Covenant during the year.

The Optional Protocol to the Covenant, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 63/117 [YUN 2008, p. 729], established a procedure of individual communications for cases of alleged violations of economic, social and cultural rights. During the year, Belgium, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Finland, Gabon and Niger became States parties to the treaty, bringing the total to 17.

**Implementation**

**Monitoring Body.** The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights held its fifty-second (28 April–23 May) and fifty-third (10–28 November) sessions [E/2015/22] in Geneva. Its pre-sessional working group met in Geneva from 26 to 30 May and from 1 to 5 December to identify additional issues to be discussed with reporting States. The Committee examined reports submitted under articles 16 and 17 of the Covenant by Armenia, China, the Czech Republic, El Salvador, Finland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lithuania, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam, and adopted concluding observations on them.

The Committee decided to offer the option of a simplified reporting procedure to States parties who were scheduled to submit their third or later periodic report in 2017; and pursuant to its decision on the proposed guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of the human rights treaty bodies.
Constitution on elimination of discrimination against women and optional protocol

(On the status of the Convention and Optional Protocol, see p. 000. On the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its cases and consequences, see p. 000.)

Constitution against torture
Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, 150 States were parties to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 39/46 [YUN 1984, p. 813]. Eritrea and the State of Palestine became parties to the treaty during the year.

States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention establishing an international inspection system for places of detention, adopted by the Assembly in resolution 57/199 [YUN 2002, p. 631] and entering into force in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 776], stood at 76, with Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Morocco, Mozambique and Niger becoming parties during the year.

As at 23 May, 58 parties had made the required declarations under articles 21 and 22, which recognized the competence of the Committee against Torture to receive and consider communications by which a State party claimed that another party was not fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, and from or on behalf of individuals who claimed to be victims of a violation of the Convention’s provisions by a State party. Sixty-two parties had made the declaration under article 21, concerning inter-States communications, and 66 had made the declaration under article 22, concerning individual communications.

Amendments to articles 17 and 18, adopted in 1992 [YUN 1992, p. 736], had been accepted by 30 States parties at year’s end.

Implementation

Monitoring body. During the year, the Committee against Torture held its fifty-second (28 April–23 May) [A/69/44] and fifty-third (3–28 November) [A/70/44] sessions in Geneva. Under article 19 of the Convention, it considered reports submitted by 16 countries (Australia, Burundi, Croatia, Cyprus, Guinea, Holy See, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Thailand, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela) and adopted concluding observations on them.

The Committee continued, in accordance with article 20, to study reliable information that appeared to contain well-founded indications that torture was systematically practiced in a State party. Under article 22, the Committee considered communications submitted by individuals claiming that their rights under the Convention had been violated by a State party.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (decision 69/536), took note of the report of the Committee against Torture on its fifty-first [YUN 2013, p. 601] and fifty-second sessions.

Subcommittee on prevention. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Subcommittee on Prevention), established in 2006 [YUN 2006, p. 776] to carry out the functions laid down in the Optional Protocol to the Convention adopted by resolution 57/199 [YUN 2002, p. 631], held its twenty-second (24–28 February), twenty-third (2–6 June) and twenty-fourth (17–21 November) sessions in Geneva. The mandate of the Subcommittee was to visit places where persons were or might be deprived of liberty and make recommendations to States parties on their protection; assist States parties in establishing national preventative mechanisms; provide support to such mechanisms; and cooperate with UN and other bodies in preventing ill-treatment.

The eighth annual report of the Subcommittee [CAT/C/54/2], covering its activities in 2014, reviewed developments relating to the Optional Protocol to the Convention; highlighted areas of cooperation between the Subcommittee and other international and regional bodies and civil society; provided information on developments in the Subcommittee’s working practices; set out the Subcommittee’s views on pretrial detention and the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment; and reflected on the Subcommittee’s programme of work for 2015.

In 2014, the Subcommittee visited Nigeria (1–3 April), Nicaragua (7–16 May), Ecuador (1–4 September) [CAT/OP/ECU/2], Malta (6–9 October) [CAT/OP/MLT/1], Togo (1–10 December) [CAT/OP/TGO/1], Maldives (8–11 December) and Azerbaijan (8–14 September), with the visit to the latter country being suspended due to the Subcommittee’s inability to enjoy unfettered access to all places of deprivation of liberty. It would resume its suspended Azerbaijan visit when it was possible for the visit to be completed in accordance with the Subcommittee’s mandate. The visits were followed by the submission of a confidential
report to the respective Governments that included recommendations. Recipients were requested to provide a reply to a visit report within six months, giving a full account of actions taken to implement the recommendations it contained. At the end of 2014, the Subcommittee had received 12 replies from States parties. Replies from Cambodia, Gabon, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Maldives, Mali and Peru were considered to be overdue.

**Special Fund.** Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/156 [YUN 2013, p. 673], the Secretary-General submitted an August report [A/69/289] on the operations of the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention to help finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the Subcommittee on Prevention following visits to States parties, as well as education programmes of national preventive mechanisms. During 2014, the Fund received contributions of $10,000 from Argentina and $218,878.25 from Germany.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (decision 69/536), took note of the report.

In a December note [A/HRC/28/24], the Secretary-General reported that total grants for 2014 had amounted to $232,084 for seven projects. The Fund, however, struggled to secure a sustainable donor base and would only be able to fund seven or eight projects of $35,000 each in 2015. Based on current trends, it was estimated that the Fund reserves accumulated over the past three years would be entirely depleted by the end of 2015.

**Convention on the rights of the child**

**Accessions and ratifications**

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/25 [YUN 1989, p. 560], stood at 194, with the State of Palestine acceding to the treaty during the year.

States parties to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the involvement of children in armed conflict, adopted by General Assembly resolution 54/263 [YUN 2000, p. 615], rose to 159, with the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Saint Lucia and the State of Palestine becoming parties during the year.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, also adopted by resolution 54/263 [ibid.], had 169 States parties, with the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Ethiopia and Haiti becoming parties during the year.

The Optional Protocol to the Convention on a communications procedure, adopted by resolution 66/138 [YUN 2011, p. 623], which allowed children to submit complaints regarding violations of their rights under the Convention and its first two protocols, entered into force on 14 April 2014. As at 31 December, it had 14 States parties, with Andorra, Belgium, Costa Rica, Ireland and Monaco becoming parties during the year.

The Secretary-General reported on the status of the Convention and its Optional Protocols as at 1 July 2014 [A/69/260].

The General Assembly, on 18 December (decision 69/532), took note of the report.

**Implementation**

**Monitoring body.** In 2014, the Committee on the Rights of the Child held its sixty-fifth (13–31 January) [A/69/41], sixty-sixth (26 May–13 June) and sixty-seventh (1–19 September) sessions [A/71/41] in Geneva.

Under article 44 of the Convention, the Committee considered initial and periodic reports submitted by 15 countries (the Congo, Croatia, Fiji, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Venezuela, Yemen) and the Holy See, and adopted concluding observations on them.

At its sixty-seventh session, the Committee adopted the joint general comment No. 18 on harmful practices; developed together with the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. In other activities, on 24 September, the Committee celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention at an online event with conversations between 28 children, from 14 countries around the world, and Committee members.

**Twenty-fifth anniversary**

In 2014, the General Assembly considered the item on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and convened a high-level meeting on the topic on 20 November (see below).

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 20 May [meeting 87], the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/273 [draft: A/68/L.46 & Add.1] without vote [agenda item 65 (a)].

High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

The General Assembly,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and, bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, calling for their universal ratification and
effective implementation, as well as that of other human rights instruments.

Welcoming the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the human rights treaty with the most ratifications in history, and acknowledging that the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children,

Recognizing that, while progress has been made, the situation of children is critical in many parts of the world and many challenges remain to ensure the full realization of their rights, and that in this regard the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Convention is an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to undertake additional measures to ensure children’s rights,

1. **Decides** to convene a high-level meeting on 20 November 2014 on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that the high-level meeting will comprise an opening plenary meeting and an interactive panel discussion with the meaningful participation of children;

2. **Also decides** that, in addition to the participation of the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and Member States speaking on behalf of regional groups, will address the high-level meeting at its opening meeting;

3. **Further decides** that the interactive panel discussion shall be chaired by two Member States, at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly, after consultations with regional groups;

4. **Requests** the President of the General Assembly, in a transparent manner and in consultation with Member States, with support from the United Nations Children’s Fund, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting, including identification of the theme and panellists for the interactive panel discussion, with due regard given to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution, as well as to the meaningful participation of children;

5. **Encourages** all Member and observer States and observers to be represented at the high-level meeting at the highest possible level and to include children and young persons in their delegations;

6. **Invites** all relevant United Nations entities and other relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to participate in the high-level meeting at the highest possible level;

7. **Requests** the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of interested representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may participate in the high-level meeting;

8. **Also requests** the President of the General Assembly, in a timely manner, to draw up a list of representatives of non-governmental organizations accredited to or in a collaborative relationship or partnership with the United Nations Children’s Fund, as well as of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector, who may participate in the high-level meeting, taking into account the principles of transparency and equitable geographical representation, for submission to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis, and to bring the list to the attention of the General Assembly;

9. **Further requests** the President of the General Assembly, with support from the United Nations Children’s Fund, to prepare a summary of the high-level meeting and to bring the summary to the attention of Member States, relevant United Nations entities and other stakeholders.

**High-level meeting.** Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/273 (see above), a high-level meeting of the Assembly was convened on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention (New York, 20 November 2014) [A/69/PV.56]. An interactive panel discussion on the same date examined if the world was a better place for children, which was the topic of a UNICEF report entitled 25 Years of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In his address to the Assembly, UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake asked the question: “What do Dr. Seuss, the beloved author of children’s books, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child have in common?” The answer was that they both believed, as Dr. Seuss had written, that “A person’s a person, no matter how small”. He noted that since the adoption of the Convention, millions more children were surviving beyond their fifth birthdays, receiving vaccinations against preventable diseases, and enjoying improved access to education, sanitation, water, nutrition and protection from all manner of abuses. On the other hand, for millions of children, life was not better. In closing, he stressed the importance of preparing today’s children to become tomorrow’s adults and leaders, and to do so by extending the Convention’s promise to those millions of children being left behind.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/484], adopted resolution 69/157 without vote [agenda item 64 (a)].

**Rights of the child**

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions on the rights of the child in their entirety, the most recent of which is resolution 68/147 of 18 December 2013, and in particular recognizing the importance of resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, in which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and welcoming the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of its adoption in 2014,

Emphasizing that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention, and calling for

Reaffirming that the general principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the best interests of the child, non-discrimination, participation and survival and development, provide the framework for all actions concerning children.

Recalling the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of 2007, as well as the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, held on 22 and 23 September 2014.

Reaffirming the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled “A world fit for children”, and recalling the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the Dakar Framework for Action adopted at the World Education Forum, the Declaration on Social Progress and Development, the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Declaration of the commemorative high-level plenary meeting devoted to the follow-up to the outcome of the special session on children, held in New York from 11 to 13 December 2007, the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, held in New York from 20 to 22 September 2010, the outcome document, entitled “The future we want”, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, and the outcome document of the third Global Conference on Child Labour, held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 October 2013, and recalling the World Congresses against Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents, held in Stockholm from 27 to 31 August 1996, in Yokohama, Japan, from 17 to 20 December 2001 and in Rio de Janeiro from 25 to 28 November 2008.

Taking note with appreciation of the reports of the Secretary-General on progress made towards achieving the commitments set out in the outcome document of the twenty-seventh special session of the General Assembly and on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in Assembly resolution 68/147, as well as the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, whose recommendations should be carefully studied, taking fully into account the views of Member States.

Reaffirming that States have the primary responsibility to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of the child.

Acknowledging the important role played by national governmental structures for children, including, where they exist, ministries and institutions in charge of child, family and youth issues and independent ombudspersons for children or other national institutions for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

Recognizing that the family has the primary responsibility for the nurturing and protection of children, in the best interests of the child, and that children, for the full and harmonious development of their personality, should grow up in a family environment and in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding.

Noting with appreciation the work to promote and protect the rights of the child carried out by all relevant organs, bodies, entities and organizations of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, by relevant mandate holders and special procedures of the United Nations and by relevant regional organizations, where appropriate, and intergovernmental organizations, and recognizing the valuable role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

Profoundly concerned that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains negatively affected by the world financial and economic crisis, and reaffirming that eradicating poverty continues to be the greatest global challenge facing the world today, recognizing its impact beyond the socioeconomic context.

Profoundly concerned also that the situation of children in many parts of the world remains critical, in an increasingly globalized environment, as a result of the persistence of poverty, social inequality, inadequate social and economic conditions, pandemics, in particular HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, non-communicable diseases, lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation, environmental damage, climate change, natural disasters, armed conflict, foreign occupation, displacement, violence, terrorism, abuse, trafficking in children and their organs, all forms of exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism, neglect, illiteracy, hunger, intolerance, discrimination, racism, xenophobia, gender inequality, disability and inadequate legal protection, and convinced that urgent and effective national and international action is called for.

Expressing deep concern that, despite the recognition of the right of the child to express his or her views freely on all matters affecting him or her, with his or her views given due weight in accordance with the age and maturity of the child, children are still seldom seriously consulted and involved in such matters owing to a variety of constraints and impediments and that the full implementation of this right in many parts of the world has yet to be fully realized.

Deeply concerned that children disproportionately suffer the consequences of discrimination, exclusion, inequality and poverty.

Deeply concerned also that more than 6,300,000 children under the age of 5 die each year, mostly from preventable and treatable causes, owing to inadequate or lack of access to integrated and quality maternal, newborn and child health
care and services, to early childbearing, as well as to health determinants, such as safe drinking water and sanitation, safe and adequate food and nutrition, and that mortality remains highest among children belonging to the poorest and most marginalized communities,

Recognizing that a strong focus is needed on poverty, deprivation and inequality to prevent and protect children from violence and to promote the resilience of children, their families and communities,

Recognizing also the large and growing number of migrant children, including those unaccompanied or separated from their parents or primary caregivers, and especially those who find themselves in a vulnerable situation by attempting to cross international borders without the required travel documents,

Taking into special consideration the situation of child refugees and child asylum seekers, in particular those unaccompanied or separated from their parents,

Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto

1. Welcomes the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the human rights treaty with the largest number of ratifications, and acknowledges that the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto contain a comprehensive set of international legal standards for the protection and well-being of children;

2. Recognizes that, while progress has been made, many challenges remain, and that, in this regard, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on 20 November 2014, was an occasion for States to reflect on implementation gaps and to undertake additional measures to ensure that the rights of children are fully realized;

3. Notes with appreciation the entry into force on 14 April 2014 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, and encourages States to consider its accession, ratification and implementation;

4. Reaffirms paragraphs 1 to 10 of its resolution 68/147, and urges States that have not yet done so to consider acceding to or ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto as a matter of priority and to implement them effectively and fully;

5. Urges States parties to withdraw reservations that are incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or the Optional Protocols thereto and to consider reviewing regularly other reservations with a view to withdrawing them in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;

6.Welcomes the work of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, taking into account the adoption of its general comments, and its actions to follow up on its concluding observations on the implementation of the Convention and recommendations, and calls upon all States to strengthen their cooperation with the Committee, to comply in a timely manner with their reporting obligations under the Convention and the Optional Protocols thereto, in accordance with the guidelines elaborated by the Committee, and to take into account its recommendations, observations and general comments on the implementation of the Convention;

II

Promotion and protection of the rights of the child and non-discrimination against children

Non-discrimination

7. Reaffirms paragraphs 11 to 14 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon States to ensure the enjoyment by all children of all their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights without discrimination of any kind;

8. Notes with concern the large number of children belonging to national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrant children, refugee or asylum-seeking children, internally displaced children, and children of indigenous origin who are victims of discrimination, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, stresses the need to incorporate special measures, in accordance with the principle of the best interests of the child and respect for his or her views and the child’s gender-specific needs, including children with special needs, in education programmes and programmes to combat these practices, and calls upon States to provide special support and to ensure equal access to services for those children;

9. Urges all States to respect and promote the right of girls and boys to express themselves freely, and their right to be heard, to ensure that their views are given due weight, in accordance with their age and maturity, in all matters affecting them, and to involve children, including children with special needs, in decision-making processes, taking into account the evolving capacities of children and the importance of involving children’s organizations and child-led initiatives;

10. Recognizes that discrimination against any child on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and worth of the child, and expresses grave concern that children with disabilities face violations of their human rights, as well as discriminatory, attitudinal and environmental barriers to their participation and inclusion in society and in the community;

Registration, family relations, adoption and alternative care

11. Reaffirms paragraphs 15 to 19 of its resolution 68/147, and urges all States parties to intensify their efforts to comply with their obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to protect children in matters relating to registration, family relations and adoption or other forms of alternative care, and, in cases of international parental or familial child abduction, encourages States to engage in bilateral and, where appropriate, multilateral cooperation to resolve those cases, and in this regard to consider accession to or ratification of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and to facilitate, inter alia, the return of the child to the country in which he or she resided immediately before the removal or retention, while taking into consideration the principle of the best interests of the child;

Economic and social well-being of children

12. Reaffirms paragraphs 20 to 29 of its resolution 68/147, paragraphs 42 to 52 of its resolution 61/146 of 19 December 2006 on children and poverty and paragraphs 37 to 42 of its resolution 60/231 of 23 December 2005 on children living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and calls upon all States and the international community to create an
environment in which the well-being of the child is ensured, including by strengthening international cooperation in this field and by implementing their previous commitments relating to poverty eradication, including the Millennium Development Goals, the right to education, including equal access to quality education, and measures to promote human rights education, including the safe and beneficial use of the Internet as a tool for the advancement of the child’s social and educational well-being, the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including efforts to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age and to address the situation of children living with or affected by HIV and AIDS and to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and, through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking water and sanitation, the right to food for all and the right to an adequate standard of living, including housing and clothing;

13. **Calls upon** all States and the international community to cooperate, support and participate in the global efforts towards poverty eradication and to mobilize all necessary resources and support in that regard, according to national plans and strategies, including through an integrated and multifaceted approach based on the rights and well-being of children;

14. **Strongly underlines** the importance of giving due consideration to the inclusion of the promotion and protection of the rights and well-being of children in the post-2015 development agenda, including by ending extreme poverty, reducing inequalities and eliminating all forms of violence against children, including harmful practices;

**Child labour**

15. **Calls upon** all States to translate into concrete action their commitment to the progressive and effective eradication of child labour that is likely to be hazardous, to interfere with the child’s education or to be harmful to the child’s health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development, to eliminate immediately the worst forms of child labour and to promote education as a key strategy in this regard;

16. **Urges** all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying both the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182) and the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) of the International Labour Organization;

17. **Recognizes** that poverty and social exclusion, labour mobility, discrimination and lack of adequate social protection and educational opportunity as well as lack of birth registrations all influence child labour.

**Prevention and elimination of violence against children**

18. **Reaffirms** paragraphs 34 to 39 of its resolution 68/147 and paragraphs 47 to 62 of its resolution 62/141 of 18 December 2007 on the elimination of violence against children, condemns all forms of violence against children, and urges all States to implement the measures set out in paragraph 34 of its resolution 68/147 and:

(a) To take effective and appropriate legislative and other measures to prohibit, prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against children in all settings, including harmful practices in all situations, and to strengthen international, national and local cooperation and mutual assistance in this regard;

(b) To exercise due diligence, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against all children and end impunity, and provide protection as well as universal access to comprehensive social, physical and mental health and legal services and support for victims and survivors, to ensure their full recovery and reintroduction into society and, bearing in mind the importance for all children to live free from violence, to address the structural and underlying causes of violence against all children through enhanced prevention measures, research and strengthened coordination and monitoring and evaluation;

(c) To address the gender dimension of all forms of violence against children and incorporate a gender perspective in all policies adopted and actions taken to protect children against all forms of violence, acknowledging that girls and boys face varying risks from different forms of violence at different ages and in different situations;

19. **Also reaffirms** that violence against children is never justifiable and that it is the duty of States to protect children, including those in conflict with the law, from all forms of violence and human rights violations and to exercise due diligence to prohibit, prevent and investigate acts of violence against children, eliminate impunity and provide assistance to the victims, including preventing revictimization;

20. **Strongly condemns** the abduction of children, and calls upon all States to take all the appropriate measures to secure their unconditional release, rehabilitation and reintegretion and their reunification with their families;

21. **Notes with appreciation** the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to advance the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on violence against children and to continue to promote the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children, including through her regional and thematic consultations and field missions, and to continue the effective and independent performance of her mandate set out in resolution 62/141, as well as thematic reports addressing emerging concerns, such as the risks associated with information and communications technologies for the protection of children from violence;

22. **Also notes with appreciation** the adoption of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, encourages States to take effective measures for their dissemination and implementation, as appropriate, and invites relevant United Nations actors to support Member States, where appropriate, to this end through concerted efforts;

**Promoting and protecting the rights of children, including children in particularly difficult situations**

23. **Reaffirms** paragraphs 40 to 48 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to promote and protect all human rights of all children, to implement evidence-based programmes and measures that provide them with special protection and assistance, including access to health care and inclusive and quality education and social services, to consider implementing voluntary repatriation, reintegration where appropriate and feasible, family tracing and family reunification, in particular for children who are unaccompanied, and to ensure that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration;
24. **Calls upon** all States to ensure, for children belonging to minorities and vulnerable groups, including migrant children and indigenous children, the enjoyment of all human rights, as well as access to health care, social services and education, on an equal basis with others and to ensure that all such children, in particular unaccompanied migrant children and those who are victims of violence and exploitation, receive appropriate protection and assistance;

**Migrant children**

25. **Reaffirms** the need to promote and protect effectively the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrant children, regardless of their migration status, and to address international migration through international, regional or bilateral cooperation and dialogue and through a comprehensive and balanced approach, recognizing the roles and responsibilities of countries of origin, transit and destination in promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrant children, and avoiding approaches that might aggravate their vulnerability;

26. **Expresses the commitment** to protect the human rights of migrant children, given their vulnerability, particularly unaccompanied migrant children, and to provide for their health, education and psychosocial development, ensuring that the best interests of the child are a primary consideration in policies of integration, return and family reunification;

**Children and the administration of justice**

27. **Encourages** continued regional and cross-regional efforts, the sharing of best practices and the provision of technical assistance in the field of juvenile justice, and notes in this regard the initiative to convene a world congress on juvenile justice in Geneva from 26 to 30 January 2015;

28. **Takes note with appreciation** of Human Rights Council resolution 25/6 of 27 March 2014 on the rights of the child: access to justice for children, and recalls in this regard the thematic report entitled “Promoting restorative justice for children”, issued by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in 2013;

29. **Reaffirms** paragraphs 49 to 57 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to respect and protect the rights of children alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law, as well as children of persons alleged to have infringed or recognized as having infringed penal law;

30. **Encourages** States to develop and implement a comprehensive juvenile justice policy to protect and address the needs of children in contact with the law, with a view to promoting, inter alia, crime prevention and diversion, rehabilitation and reintegration of the child, and ensuring compliance with the principle that deprivation of liberty of children should be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time, as well as to avoid, wherever possible, the use of pretrial detention for children;

**Prevention and eradication of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography**

31. **Reaffirms** paragraph 58 of its resolution 68/147, and calls upon all States to prevent, criminalize, prosecute and punish all forms of sale and trafficking of children, including for the purposes of removal of organs of the child for profit, child slavery, sexual exploitation of children, child prostitution and child pornography, with the aim of eradicating such practices and the use of the Internet and other information and communications technologies for these purposes, to combat the existence of a market that encourages such criminal practices and take measures to eliminate the demand that fosters them, as well as to address the rights and needs of victims effectively and take effective measures against the criminalization of children who are victims of exploitation;

**Children affected by armed conflict**

32. **Reaffirms** paragraphs 59 to 70 of its resolution 68/147, and condemns in the strongest terms all violations and abuses committed against children in armed conflict, and in this regard urges all States and other parties to armed conflict that are engaged, in contravention of applicable international law, including humanitarian law, in the recruitment and use of children, in patterns of killing and maiming of children and/or rape and other sexual violence against children, acknowledging that sexual violence in these situations disproportionately affects girls, and in recurrent attacks on schools and/or hospitals and related personnel, as well as in all other violations and abuses against children, to take time-bound and effective measures to end them;

33. **Recalls**, in accordance with international humanitarian law, that indiscriminate attacks against civilians, including children, are prohibited and that civilians shall not be the object of attack, including by way of reprisal or disproportionate attacks, condemns such practices resulting in the killing and maiming of children, and demands that all parties immediately put an end to such attacks;

34. **Urges** States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, other relevant international and regional organizations and civil society to give serious attention to, and to protect and assist child victims of, all violations and abuses committed against children in situations of armed conflict, in accordance with international humanitarian law, including the First to Fourth Geneva Conventions;

35. **Calls upon** States to protect children affected by armed conflict, in particular from violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, and to ensure that they receive timely, effective humanitarian assistance, noting the efforts taken to end impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and calls upon the international community to hold those responsible for violations accountable, inter alia, through the International Criminal Court;

36. **Remains deeply concerned**, however, over the lack of progress on the ground in some situations where parties to armed conflict continue to violate with impunity the relevant provisions of applicable international law relating to the rights and protection of children in armed conflict;

37. **Expresses deep concern** about attacks, as well as threats of attacks, in contravention of applicable international law against schools and/or hospitals, and protected persons in relation to them, welcomes the publication of the guidance note on Security Council resolution 1998(2011) of 12 July 2011 on attacks on schools and hospitals by the Office of the Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
and notes the adoption of Security Council resolution 2143(2014) of 7 March 2014;

38. **Welcomes** in this regard the “Children, not soldiers” campaign initiated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the United Nations Children’s Fund, in collaboration with other United Nations partners, aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children by the armed forces concerned by 2016, and requests the Special Representative to report on progress in her next report to the General Assembly;

III

**Progress achieved and challenges in protecting children from discrimination and overcoming inequalities in the light of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child**

39. **Reaffirms** that the Convention on the Rights of the Child constitutes the standard in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child, and that States parties to the Convention shall undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized therein, while bearing in mind the importance of the Optional Protocols to the Convention;

40. **Recognizes** that the full realization of children’s rights requires the adoption and implementation of comprehensive laws, policies and programmes for all children, taking into account the right of the child to express his or her views freely in all matters affecting him or her, the views of the child being given due weight in accordance with his or her age and maturity;

41. **Also recognizes** that financial and material poverty, or conditions directly and uniquely imputable to such poverty, should never be the only justification for the removal of a child from the care of his or her parents or primary caregivers, for receiving a child into alternative care or for preventing his or her reintegration, but should be seen as a signal for the need to provide appropriate support to the family;

42. **Expresses its concern** that children with disabilities, particularly girls, are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, including sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment and maltreatment or exploitation;

43. **Calls upon** States parties to respect and ensure the rights set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto and to take all appropriate measures to ensure that all children are protected against all forms of discrimination, violence, including sexual violence, abuse and exploitation and traditional, customary harmful practices, which can be harmful to the child’s physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development;

44. **Calls upon** all Member States to take all appropriate measures to safeguard the realization of the rights of the child in a manner conducive to his or her fullest possible social inclusion and individual development;

45. **Encourages** States to consider the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes to implement the post-2015 development agenda;

46. **Recognizes** that, in order to further the positive impacts achieved through the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 development agenda will need to consider people living in poverty and in vulnerable situations as well as the most marginalized and excluded populations, including children, which are most at risk and in need of protection;

47. **Also recognizes** that children may face additional barriers in accessing justice, and reaffirms the duty of States to respect and ensure an effective remedy and access to justice for each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind;

48. **Calls upon** all States to include the relevant provisions to protect children from discrimination and overcome inequalities and, in particular:

(a) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination motivated by intolerance or prejudice of any kind;

(b) To incorporate special measures in formal and non-formal education and other programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance affecting children;

(c) To address the root causes of inequality and remove barriers that prevent children, particularly those who suffer the worst deprivations in society, from accessing education, health care, adequate nutritious food, sanitation, clean water, protection and other services necessary for their survival, growth and development;

(d) To take all necessary and effective measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and all forms of violence, including female infanticide and prenatal sex selection, rape, sexual abuse, forced sterilization and harmful traditional or customary practices, including female genital mutilation and child, early and forced marriage, by enacting and enforcing legislation and, where appropriate, by formulating comprehensive, multidisciplinary and coordinated national plans, programmes or strategies to protect girls, as well as by promoting awareness-raising and social mobilization initiatives for the protection of their rights;

(e) To eliminate all forms of discrimination against girls and to take measures to address stereotyped gender roles and other prejudices based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, and to mainstream in this context a gender perspective in all development and human rights policies and programmes related to children and those specific to the girl child;

(f) To take measures to collect and disaggregate relevant information, including statistical and research data, as appropriate, in order to identify the barriers faced by children, especially those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, in exercising their rights;

(g) To develop and strengthen the collection, analysis and dissemination of data for national statistics on children as far as possible and to use data disaggregated by relevant factors that may lead to disparities and other statistical indicators at the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to develop and assess social and other policies and programmes so that economic and social resources are used efficiently and effectively for the full realization of the rights of the child;
To take steps to design and implement preventive and comprehensive anti-bullying measures, including in educational settings, that address bullying and peer-directed aggression against children, which could include the training of educators and family members and also raising awareness of this matter among children;

To take all necessary measures to ensure universal access to birth registration of all children immediately after birth, including those living in remote areas, by, inter alia, removing barriers that impede their registration, moving towards the provision of free birth registration, ensuring the existence of a simple, effective, expeditious and accessible birth registration system, including late birth registration, ensuring the right of every child to a name and the right to acquire a nationality, respecting the selection by parents of a name of their own choosing, respecting the child’s preservation of his or her identity and, as far as possible, protecting the child’s knowing and being cared for by his or her parents;

In accordance with article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to continuously raise awareness of the importance of birth registration at the national, regional and local levels, to ensure free or low-fee late birth registration, to ensure that all legal and procedural impediments to the registration of children who reside in a State party are addressed and to ensure that children who have not been registered enjoy their human rights and have access without discrimination to health care, quality education, protection from violence, safe drinking water and sanitation and other basic services;

To design and implement programmes to provide pregnant adolescents and adolescent mothers with education, including access to quality education, social services and support, to enable them to continue and complete their education and protect them from discrimination, as well as to ensure a healthy and safe pregnancy;

To develop and implement educational programmes and teaching materials, including comprehensive evidence-based education on human sexuality, based on full and accurate information, for all adolescents and youth, in a manner consistent with their evolving capacities, with appropriate direction and guidance from parents and legal guardians, with the involvement of children, adolescents, youth and communities, and in coordination with women’s, youth and specialized non-governmental organizations, in order to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, to eliminate prejudices and to promote and build decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills for the development of respectful relationships based on gender equality and human rights, as well as teacher education and training programmes for both formal and non-formal education;

To take all measures necessary to ensure that children enjoy the right to the highest attainable standard of health, in keeping with existing obligations, including by ensuring that all children and adolescents have access to quality, free or affordable, gender-sensitive, appropriate health-care services, including age-appropriate health-care programmes in the area of sexual and reproductive health, taking into account the needs and evolving capacities of the child;

To adopt legislative and other appropriate measures, including cross-sectoral approaches, to ensure the full realization by all children of the right to education, including their access to quality education, on the basis of equal opportunity, in a manner conducive to their fullest possible social inclusion and individual development, including through the provision of compulsory primary education that is available free to all and to take all appropriate measures to make all other levels and all forms of education available and accessible to all children without discrimination;

To take all appropriate measures to ensure protection and safety for all children, including the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation, during and after situations of risk, situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, by adopting and implementing prevention and response programmes, including those related to the recruitment of children by armed forces and armed groups in contravention of applicable international law, to ensure the physical and psychological recovery, family reunification and social reintegration of these children and ensure that such recovery, reintegration and rehabilitation take place in an environment which fosters the well-being, health, self-respect and dignity of the child;

49. **Calls upon** all Member States, and invites the United Nations system, to strengthen international cooperation to ensure the realization of the rights of the child, including the most marginalized and excluded children, inter alia, by supporting national initiatives that give more emphasis to the development of the most marginalized and excluded children, as appropriate, and by reinforcing international cooperation measures in fields of research or on the transfer of technology such as assistive technologies;

50. **Calls upon** the relevant entities, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, and invites the international financial and donor institutions and bilateral donors, to support, when requested, national initiatives, including development programmes, for the most marginalized and excluded children, financially and technically, as well as to enhance effective international cooperation and partnerships to strengthen knowledge-sharing and capacity-building, with particular attention to policy development, programme development, research and professional training;

**IV Follow-up**

51. **Recognizes** the work of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, its increased level of activity and the progress achieved since the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative, and, bearing in mind its resolution 63/241 of 24 December 2008 and paragraphs 35 to 37 of its resolution 51/37 of 12 December 1996, recommends that the Secretary-General extend the mandate of the Special Representative for a further period of three years;

52. **Decides**

(a) To request the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the rights of the child containing information on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the issues addressed in the present resolution, with a focus on the right to education;

(b) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the
fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the children and armed conflict agenda;

(d) To request the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children to continue to submit annual reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, consistent with paragraphs 58 and 59 of its resolution 62/141, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the violence against children agenda, and, in accordance with paragraph 39 of its resolution 68/147, to ensure that the effective performance and the sustainability of the core activities of the mandate of the Special Representative are maintained;

(e) To invite the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty, funded through voluntary contributions and conducted in close cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and offices, including but not limited to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children’s Fund, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, as well as the Interagency Panel on Juvenile Justice, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including Member States, civil society, academia and children, and to include good practices and recommendations for action to effectively realize all relevant rights of the child, including supporting the implementation of the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites the Secretary-General to submit the conclusions of the study to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session;

(f) To request the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to continue to submit reports to the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on the activities undertaken in the fulfilment of her mandate, including information on her field visits and on the progress achieved and the challenges remaining on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography agenda;

(g) To invite the Chair of the Committee on the Rights of the Child to present an oral report on the work of the Committee and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventy-second session as a way to enhance communication between the Assembly and the Committee;

(h) To continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of the rights of children”, focusing section III of the resolution entitled “Rights of the child” on the theme “Right to education”.

Convention on migrant workers

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 45/158 [YUN 1990, p. 594] and which entered into force in 2003 [YUN 2003, p. 676], remained at 47.

Implementation

Monitoring body. The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families held its twentieth (31 March–11 April) [A/69/48] and twenty-first (1–5 September) [A/70/48] sessions in Geneva. Under article 74 of the Convention, the Committee considered reports of Ghana, Uruguay, El Salvador, Mali and the Philippines and adopted concluding observations on them. The Committee also considered the situation in Belize, in the absence of a report, as well as in the absence of a delegation, and adopted concluding observations on the State party.

At its twentieth session, the Committee held a general discussion on workplace exploitation and workplace protection, which highlighted the various forms of abuse experienced by migrant workers, particularly those in temporary or seasonal employment, and those in an irregular or undocumented situation. At its twenty-first session, the Committee decided that it would develop a general comment on the human rights of children in the context of migration.

(On the Organization’s efforts to protect the rights of migrants, see also p. 000.)

Convention on rights of persons with disabilities

Accessions and ratification

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 61/106 [YUN 2006, p. 785], rose to 151, with Andorra, Angola, Burundi, the Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Georgia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Japan, the State of Palestine and Switzerland becoming parties during the year.

The Optional Protocol, which established an individual complaints mechanism, had 85 States parties by year’s end, with Andorra, Angola, Burundi, the Congo, Denmark and Gabon becoming parties.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 67/160 [YUN 2012, p. 616], the Secretary-General, in August, submitted a report [A/69/284] on the status of the Convention, the work of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention, the activities of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (see below), and an overview of the progress made by UN system entities and civil society organizations to implement the Convention.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 18 December (decision 69/536).
Implementation

**Monitoring body.** The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities held its eleventh (31 March–11 April) [CRPD/C/11/2] and twelfth (15 September–3 October) [CRPD/C/12/2] sessions in Geneva. The Committee considered initial reports, under article 35 of the Convention of Azerbaijan, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Mexico, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea and Sweden and adopted concluding observations on them. The Committee adopted its general comments No. 1 on equal recognition before the law and No. 2 on accessibility at its eleventh session; and decided to establish a working group to prepare a draft general comment on independent living and on education at its twelfth session.


(On the Committee’s efforts to protect the rights of persons with disabilities see also p. 000.)

**Convention for protection from enforced disappearance**

**Accessions and ratifications**

As at 31 December, the number of States parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 61/177 [YUN 2006, p. 800], rose to 44, with Portugal, Slovakia and Togo becoming parties during the year.

Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/166 [YUN 2013, p. 612], the Secretary-General, in July, submitted a report [A/69/214] on the status of the Convention, communications from States parties and activities to implement the resolution.

**Implementation**

**Monitoring body.** The Committee on Enforced Disappearances held its sixth (17–28 March) [A/69/56] and seventh (15–26 September) [A/70/56] sessions in Geneva. The Committee considered reports, under article 29 of the Convention, of Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Paraguay and adopted concluding observations on them. At its sixth session, the Committee decided to entrust the Rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations to remind States parties, between sessions, of the requirement to submit, within one year, information on the measures taken to implement the concluding observations that the Committee considered a priority. It also held a public thematic discussion on enforced disappearance and military justice. At its seventh session, the Committee adopted a document entitled: “The relationship of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances with national human rights institutions”; a guidance note on the conduct of the dialogues; and a framework for the concluding observations. It also decided to: give precedence to the examination of the report on Iraq given the seriousness of the situation in the country; appoint a co-rapporteur on follow-up to concluding observations; and use English, Spanish and French as its working languages and use Arabic when necessary.

In October, the Rapporteurs for follow-up to concluding observations submitted their annual report [CED/C/11/2] to the Committee.

(On the Rapporteur’s efforts to combat enforced or involuntary disappearances, see also p. 000.)

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 69/169 without vote [agenda item 68 (6)].

**International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance**

**The General Assembly,**

**Reaffirming** its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006, by which it adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance,

**Recalling** its resolution 47/133 of 18 December 1992, by which it adopted the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States,

**Recalling also** all its other resolutions on the matter, including resolution 68/166 of 18 December 2013, as well as relevant resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council, including resolution 27/1 of 25 September 2014,

**Recalling further** its resolution 68/165 of 18 December 2013 on the right to the truth, as well as Human Rights Council resolution 27/3 of 25 September 2014 on the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence,

**Recalling** its resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014 on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system,

**Recalling also** that no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance,

**Recalling further** that no exceptional circumstance whatsoever may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance,

**Recalling** that no one shall be held in secret detention,

Deeply concerned, in particular, by the increase in enforced or involuntary disappearances in various regions of the world, including arrest, detention and abduction, when these are part of or amount to enforced disappearances, and by the growing number of reports concerning harassment, ill-treatment and intimidation of witnesses of disappearances or relatives of persons who have disappeared,

**Recalling** that the Convention sets out the right of victims to know the truth regarding the circumstances of the enforced disappearance, the progress and results of the in-
investment and the fate of the disappeared person, and sets forth State party obligations to take appropriate measures in this regard,

Recalling also that the Convention defines the victim of enforced disappearance as the disappeared person and any individual who has suffered harm as the direct result of an enforced disappearance,

Acknowledging that the widespread and systematic practice of enforced disappearance is recognized in the Convention as a crime against humanity, as defined in applicable international law,

Stressing the importance of the work of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances,

Acknowledging the valuable work of the International Committee of the Red Cross in promoting compliance with international humanitarian law in this field,

1. Recognizes the importance of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the ratification and the implementation of which will be a significant contribution to ending impunity and to promoting and protecting all human rights for all;

2. Welcomes the fact that 94 States have signed the Convention and 44 have ratified or acceded to it, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to consider signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention as a matter of priority, as well as to consider the option provided for in articles 31 and 32 of the Convention regarding the Committee on Enforced Disappearances;

3. Also welcomes the report of the Secretary-General;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to increase their intensive efforts to assist States in becoming parties to the Convention, including by supporting the actions of States to ratify the Convention, providing technical and capacity-building assistance to States and civil society and raising awareness about the Convention, with a view to achieving universal adherence;

5. Requests United Nations agencies and organizations, and invites intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances to continue making efforts to disseminate information on the Convention, to promote understanding of it and to assist States parties in implementing their obligations under this instrument;

6. Welcomes the work achieved by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, and encourages all States parties to the Convention to submit their reports, to support and promote the work of the Committee and to implement its recommendations;

7. Recognizes the importance of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance as a body of principles for all States designed to punish enforced disappearances, to prevent their commission and to help victims of such acts and their families to seek fair, prompt and adequate reparation;

8. Welcomes the cooperation established between the Working Group and the Committee, within the framework of their respective mandates, and encourages further cooperation in the future;

9. Takes note with interest of all the general comments of the Working Group, including the most recent comments on children and women affected by enforced disappearances, and recognizes in this regard that enforced disappearances have special consequences for women and vulnerable groups, especially children, as they most often bear the serious economic hardships that usually accompany such disappearances and, when subjected to enforced disappearances themselves, may become particularly vulnerable to sexual and other forms of violence;

10. Invites the Chair of the Committee and the Chair of the Working Group to address and engage in an interactive dialogue with the General Assembly at its seventieth session under the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report on the status of the Convention and the implementation of the present resolution.

Constitutional on genocide

Accessions and ratifications

As at 31 December, 146 States were parties to the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 260A(III) [YUN 1948–1949, p. 959], with Malta and the State of Palestine becoming parties during the year.

Genocide prevention

Panel discussion. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 22/22 [YUN 2013, p. 618], a high-level panel discussion dedicated to the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Convention (Geneva, 7 March) was convened at the Council’s twenty-fifth (2014) session and the High Commissioner submitted a summary [A/HRC/27/24] report on its outcome. In addressing the issue of preventing genocide, particularly in connection with early warning signs, the panelists highlighted the importance of using existing mechanisms, establishing a national architecture with focal points for atrocity crimes, and strengthening national capacity. They also recommended that the Council should consider using the Analysis Framework on the prevention of genocide, developed by the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect [YUN 2009, p. 644], in its prevention works and in conducting appropriate assessments of critical situations.

General aspects

Human rights treaty body system

Meeting of Chairs. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 57/202 [YUN 2002, p. 623], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the report [A/69/285] on the twenty-sixth meeting of the Chairs of the UN human rights treaty bodies (Geneva, 23–27 June), which was held to consider the implementation of Assembly resolution 68/268 (see p. 000) on strengthening the functioning of the human rights treaty body system, as
as well as follow-up to the recommendations of the twenty-fifth meeting [YUN 2013, p. 613]. In the context of the intergovernmental process on treaty body strengthening, the Chairs met with States parties, civil society organizations and the International Coordinating Committee of national human rights institutions. Other topics discussed included reprisals against individuals and groups engaging or seeking to engage with the treaty bodies; complementarity between the work of the treaty bodies and the universal periodic review (UPR); harmonization of working methods through simplified reporting procedures [HRI/MC/2014/4]; constructive dialogue between treaty bodies and States parties [HRI/MC/2014/3]; and concluding observations [HRI/MC/2014/2]. The Chairs’ decisions and recommendations were contained in section VII of the report.

The General Assembly, on 18 December (decision 69/536) took note of the report.

Secretariat note. By a July note [A/HRC/27/61], the secretariat advised that the twenty-first meeting of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council was rescheduled (see below) due to the decision of the Council to postpone the appointments of a number of new special procedures mandate holders until 8 May.

Meeting of Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and chairpersons. The High Commissioner transmitted to the Council the report [A/HRC/28/41] on the twenty-first meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives, independent experts and chairpersons of working groups of special procedures of the Council (Geneva, 29 September–3 October), which focused on the special procedure system. Mandate holders exchanged views with the High Commissioner and the Council President and met with various stakeholders. Discussions addressed methods of work, engagement with stakeholders, challenges confronting the system, and thematic issues, including women’s human rights and protection of the family, sustainable development goals, and climate change. During 2014, the Council established three new mandates: on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d’Ivoire in the field of human rights.

Other activities

Strengthening action to promote human rights

International cooperation in the field of human rights

Advisory Committee report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/3 [YUN 2013, p. 616], the Advisory Committee submitted a research-based report [A/HRC/26/41] on the ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights, which discussed key challenges to international cooperation, the involvement of civil society and of national human rights institutions, efforts to realize the right to development, South-South cooperation in the human rights area, human rights education, human rights across the global institutional system, and the global infrastructure for human rights cooperation, the voluntary funds, and human rights cooperation in the field of migration. The report concluded with a series of suggestions aimed at forming the basis for immediate action by the Council.

Human Rights Council action. On 27 March [A/69/53 (res. 25/3)], the Council urged States to take measures to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises—such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters—on the full enjoyment of human rights. It also re-emphasized its request to the Advisory Committee to prepare a more focused and in-depth study on the ways and means to enhance international cooperation in the field of human rights [YUN 2013, p. 616] and to submit a progress report to the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) session.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December (meeting 73), the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 69/179 without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

The General Assembly, Reaffirming its commitment to promoting international cooperation, as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 1, paragraph 3, as well as relevant provisions of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993 for enhancing genuine cooperation among Member States in the field of human rights,

Recalling its adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration on 8 September 2000 and its resolution 68/160 of 18 December 2013, Human Rights Council resolution 25/3 of 27 March 2014 and the resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,

Recalling also the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and their role in the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights,
Recognizing that the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights is essential for the full achievement of the purposes of the United Nations, including the effective promotion and protection of all human rights,

Recognizing also that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principle of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of Member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Reaffirming that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations in the field of human rights could contribute greatly to the enhancement of international cooperation in this field,

Emphasizing the need for further progress in the promotion and encouragement of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation,

Undertaking that mutual understanding, dialogue, cooperation, transparency and confidence-building are important elements in all activities for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the adoption of resolution 2000/22 of 18 August 2000, on the promotion of dialogue on human rights issues, by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights at its fifty-second session,

1. Reaffirms that it is one of the purposes of the United Nations and the responsibility of all Member States to promote, protect and encourage respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms through, inter alia, international cooperation;

2. Recognizes that, in addition to their separate responsibilities to their individual societies, States have a collective responsibility to uphold the principles of human dignity, equality and equity at the global level;

3. Reaffirms that dialogue among cultures and civilizations facilitates the promotion of a culture of tolerance and respect for diversity, and welcomes in this regard the holding of conferences and meetings at the national, regional and international levels on dialogue among civilizations;

4. Urges all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

5. Reaffirms the importance of the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the achievement of the objectives of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

6. Considers that international cooperation in the field of human rights, in conformity with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and international law, should make an effective and practical contribution to the urgent task of preventing violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

7. Reaffirms that the promotion, protection and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms should be guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, cooperation and genuine dialogue, objectivity and transparency, in a manner consistent with the purposes and principles set out in the Charter;

8. Emphasizes the need for a cooperative approach on the part of all stakeholders to resolving human rights issues in international forums;

9. Also emphasizes the role of international cooperation in support of national efforts and in increasing the capacities of Member States in the field of human rights through, inter alia, the enhancement of their cooperation with human rights mechanisms, including through the provision of technical assistance, upon the request of and in accordance with the priorities set by the States concerned;

10. Calls upon Member States, the specialized agencies and intergovernmental organizations to continue to carry out a constructive dialogue and consultations for the enhancement of understanding and the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and encourages non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour;

11. Urges States to take measures necessary to enhance bilateral, regional and international cooperation aimed at addressing the adverse impact of consecutive and compounded global crises, such as financial and economic crises, food crises, climate change and natural disasters, on the full enjoyment of human rights;

12. Invites States and relevant United Nations human rights mechanisms and procedures to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion and protection of all human rights;

13. Recalls the seminar on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights held in 2013, with the participation of States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other stakeholders, including academic experts and civil society;

14. Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to consult States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on ways and means, as well as on obstacles and challenges and possible proposals to overcome them, for the enhancement of international cooperation and genuine dialogue in the United Nations human rights machinery, including the Human Rights Council;

15. Decides to continue its consideration of the question at its seventieth session.

National policies and human rights

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/19 [YUN 2013, p. 618], OHCHR submitted a July report [A/HRC/27/41] on technical assistance and capacity-building options for integrating human rights into national policies, which provided information on worldwide practices undertaken by States, with OHCHR support, in developing and applying methodologies to integrate human rights into national policies and programmes. The report was based on research undertaken by OHCHR on national and regional experiences in integrating human rights into public policies and programmes, taking into account national legislative frameworks and regional and international human rights instruments.
Human Rights Council action. On 26 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/26)], the Council recommended that States integrate a human rights perspective into their national policies; decided to convene at its twenty-eighth (2015) session a panel discussion on the issue of national policies and human rights, with a particular focus on the findings of the OHCHR report on technical assistance (see above), identifying challenges, further development and good practices in mainstreaming human rights in national policies and programmes; and requested the High Commissioner to submit a summary report on the outcome before the Council’s thirtieth (2015) session.

Advisory services and technical cooperation

Voluntary fund


The Board held its thirty-ninth (Mexico, 17–21 February) [A/HRC/26/51] and fortieth (Geneva, 14–16 October) [A/HRC/29/48] sessions. In 2014, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation to build strong national human rights frameworks in 30 regions, countries and territories. That included support for 16 human rights advisers in 16 countries, 8 human rights components of peace missions and 6 country/stand-alone offices. The activities conducted under the Fund had resulted in efforts made at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices; the establishment of national capacities to adhere to those standards; strengthened administration of justice; the development of human rights education programmes; increased capacities with regard to gender equality and women’s rights; and the establishment of responsive national human rights institutions. The Fund’s balance as at 31 December was $12,984,588. Income amounted to $18,052,071 and expenditures to $20,201,720.

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Council resolution 24/31 [YUN 2013, p. 618], OHCHR submitted a report [A/HRC/26/24] on activities undertaken to support efforts by States to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in their national legislations, policies and programmes. The report served as a basis for the thematic panel discussion on “Technical cooperation and capacity-building in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities through legal and institutional frameworks, including public-private partnerships”, convened during the Council’s twenty-sixth (2014) session (Geneva, 25 June) [A/HRC/26/2].

The Deputy High Commissioner opened the panel discussion with an overview of successes, best practices and challenges in OHCHR technical assistance and capacity building efforts and five panellists made statements.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/20)], the Council decided that the theme for the annual thematic panel discussion during its twenty-eighth (2015) session should be “Technical cooperation to support inclusive and participatory development and poverty eradication at the national level”. It requested the High Commissioner to report on OHCHR technical assistance to support inclusive and participatory development at the national level to the Council’s twenty-eighth (2015) session, to serve as a basis for the thematic panel discussion.

Regional arrangements

Report of High Commissioner. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/19 [YUN 2013, p. 619], the High Commissioner organized a workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights (Geneva, 8–9 October) [A/HRC/28/31]. Participants agreed on a number of proposals and recommendations aimed at enhancing cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms with regard to mainstreaming economic, social and cultural rights, in particular those of persons with disabilities and of women. The report contained a summary of the discussions held during the workshop, as well as its conclusions and recommendations.

South-West Asia and the Arab Region

Report of Secretary-General. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/241 [YUN 2013, p. 620], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report [A/69/333] on the activities, from August 2013 to July 2014, of the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, established by Assembly resolution 60/153 [YUN 2005, p. 754]. The Secretary-General concluded that the Centre, located in Doha, Qatar, continued to establish itself as a key partner in the region and had demonstrated its capacity to implement a wide range of training and documentation activities in the field of human rights. The increasing demand placed on the Centre by States and other stakeholders revealed a growing recognition of the Centre’s role and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 69/171 by recorded vote (182-1-3) [agenda item 68(6)].
United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

The General Assembly, 
Guided by the fundamental and universal principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of 1993, which reiterated the need to consider the possibility of establishing regional and subregional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights where they do not already exist,

Recalling also its resolutions 32/127 of 16 December 1977 and 51/102 of 12 December 1996 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling further its resolutions 60/153 of 16 December 2005, 67/162 of 20 December 2012 and 68/241 of 27 December 2013 on the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region,

Recalling Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/51 of 9 March 1993 and all its subsequent resolutions concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming that regional cooperation plays a fundamental role in promoting and protecting human rights and should reinforce universal human rights, as contained in international human rights instruments, and their protection,

Noting that the developments in the Middle East and North Africa have generated growing demand for the services of the Centre, and recognizing that the report of the Secretary-General indicates that regular budget resources have been allocated to reinforce the staffing capacity of the Centre, thereby enabling it to better respond to training and documentation demands in a more timely and adequate manner, and to help to fill the gaps in terms of expertise and relevant Arabic-language training materials,

Mindful of the vastness and the diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within South-West Asia and the Arab region, and taking into account the need for appropriate and sustainable funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the region,

1. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General;
2. Notes with appreciation the successful assistance that the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region has provided through human rights capacity-building activities, technical assistance programmes and training programmes on combating human trafficking, human rights and media, human rights and diplomacy, human rights education and police training on human rights, as well as support to national human rights institutions and regional consultations on the topics of United Nations human rights mechanisms;
3. Underlines the Centre’s role as a source for regional expertise and the need to meet an increasing number of requests for training and documentation, including in the Arabic language;
4. Notes that the increasing demand that has been placed on the Centre by Member States and other stakeholders reveals a growing recognition of its role and impact on strengthening human rights capacities in the region;
5. Encourages the continued engagement of the Centre to work with other United Nations regional offices to strengthen its work and to avoid duplication;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a report, in accordance with existing rules and procedures, on the implementation of the present resolution.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/171:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia.

Against: Syria, Arab Republic.

Abstaining: Rwanda, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

National human rights institutions

Reports of Secretary-General. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 23/17 [YUN 2013, p. 621], the Secretary-General submitted a report [A/HRC/27/39] covering activities undertaken by OHCHR from April 2013 to August 2014 to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions, cooperation between those institutions and the international human rights system, and OHCHR support to the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and relevant regional networks. The Secretary-General concluded the report with recommendations to States and to national institutions. He encouraged States to establish a national human rights institution where
none existed and to strengthen existing ones; and to ensure that national human rights institutions were provided with a broad mandate to protect and promote all human rights and with adequate human and financial resources. National human rights institutions were encouraged to continue to develop protective measures and mechanisms for human rights defenders, engage with the international human rights system, and advocate for their independent participation in the meetings of UN human rights bodies.

The Secretary-General also submitted a report [A/HRC/27/40] covering the activities carried out from May 2013 to March 2014 by the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in considering and reviewing applications for accreditation and re-accreditation of national human rights institutions. The report highlighted improvements in the accreditation process and concluded with recommendations. An annex to the report listed 71 national institutions that were compliant with the Paris Principles, adopted by General Assembly resolution 48/134 [YUN 1993, p. 898]; 25 institutions not fully compliant; 10 institutions that were non-compliant; and one institution that had been suspended.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 25 September [A/69/65/Add.1 (res. 27/18)], the Council invited national human rights institutions to include in their cooperation activities the exchange of best practices on strengthening the liaison role between civil society and their Governments; noted the twenty-seventh annual meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (Geneva, 12–14 March); and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council’s thirty-third (2016) session on the implementation of the resolution and on the activities of the Committee in accrediting national institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

**Role of the Ombudsman and other national institutions**

By an 8 August note [A/69/287], the Secretary-General advised that the information on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/163 [YUN 2012, p. 623] on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights was contained in his report on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights [A/HRC/27/39] (see above). In that report, the Secretary-General summarized various activities of ombudsmen, including in the areas of capacity-building, legal advice and support to regional meetings.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 69/168 without vote [agenda item 68 (b)].

**The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights**

**The General Assembly,**

**Reaffirming its commitment** to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993, in which the Conference reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming its resolutions 65/207 of 21 December 2010 and 67/163 of 20 December 2012 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 and annexed thereto,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular resolutions 66/169 of 19 December 2011 and 68/171 of 18 December 2013, as well as Human Rights Council resolutions 23/17 of 13 June 2013 and 27/18 of 25 September 2014,

Welcoming the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in the creation and strengthening of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, and recognizing the important role that these institutions can play, in accordance with their mandate, in support of national complaint resolution,

Recognizing the role of the existing Ombudsman, whether a male or female, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Undertaking the importance of the autonomy and independence of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist, in order to enable them to consider all issues related to their fields of competence,

Considering the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in promoting good governance in public administrations, as well as improving their relations with citizens, and in strengthening the delivery of public services,

Considering also the important role of the existing Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in contributing to the effective realization of the rule of law and respect for the principles of justice and equality,

Stressing that these institutions, where they exist, can play an important role in advising Governments with respect to bringing national legislation and national practices into line with their international human rights obligations,

Stressing also the importance of international cooperation in the field of human rights, and recalling the role played by
regional and international associations of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in promoting cooperation and sharing best practices,

Noting with satisfaction the active work of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen and the active continuing work of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of la Francophonie, the Asian Ombudsman Association, the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association, the Arab Ombudsman Network, the European Mediation Network Initiative, the International Ombudsman Institute and other active ombudsman and mediator associations and networks,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General, in which he refers the General Assembly to his report on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights submitted to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-seventh session, in September 2014, and regrets that no specific report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/163 was prepared, as requested in that resolution;

2. Encourages Member States:
   (a) To consider the creation or the strengthening of independent and autonomous ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions at the national and, where applicable, the local level;
   (b) To endow ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist, with an adequate constitutional and legislative framework, as well as financial and all other appropriate means in order to ensure the efficient and independent exercise of their mandate and to strengthen the legitimacy and credibility of their actions as mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights;
   (c) To develop and conduct, as appropriate, outreach activities at the national level, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, in order to raise awareness of the important role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;
   (d) To share and exchange best practices on the work and functioning of their Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and other international and regional ombudsman organizations;

3. Recognizes that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions, including the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, which is best suited to its particular needs at the national level, in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights instruments;

4. Welcomes the active participation of the Office of the High Commissioner in all international and regional meetings of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;

5. Encourages the Office of the High Commissioner, through its advisory services, to develop and support activities dedicated to the existing Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions and to strengthen their role within national systems for human rights protection;

6. Encourages the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist:
   (a) To operate, as appropriate, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and other relevant international instruments, in order to strengthen their independence and autonomy and to enhance their capacity to assist Member States in the promotion and protection of human rights;
   (b) To request, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, their accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in order to enable them to interact effectively with the relevant human rights bodies of the United Nations system;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the obstacles encountered by States in this regard, as well as on best practices in the work and functioning of ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions.

Human rights education

World Programme for Human Rights Education

OHCHR report. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 24/15 [YUN 2013, p. 624], OHCHR submitted an August report [A/HRC/27/28 & Corr.1] on the plan of action for the third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, proclaimed by General Assembly resolution 59/113 [YUN 2004, p. 678]. The aim of the third phase was to promote human rights training for media professionals and journalists and to strengthen implementation of the first (2005–2009) [YUN 2005, p. 745] and second (2010–2014) [YUN 2010, p. 661] phases of the World Programme, respectively, on human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems; and on human rights education in higher education and human rights training for teachers and educators, civil servants, law enforcement officials and military personnel at all levels. In April and May, the draft plan of action was submitted for review to States, relevant intergovernmental organizations, including UNESCO, national human rights institutions and civil society. OHCHR received 30 replies with comments, which were taken into consideration in the final text.

Human Rights Council action. On 25 September [A/69/53/Add.1 (res. 27/12)], the Council adopted the plan of action for the third phase (2015–2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education; called upon national human rights institutions to assist in the implementation of human rights education programmes consistent with the plan; requested OHCHR to submit a reports on implementation of the second and third phases of the World Programme, re-
spective, at the Council’s thirtieth (2015) and thirty-sixth (2017) sessions; and decided to follow up on the implementation of the World Programme in 2017.

International Decade for People of African Descent


On 18 June [A/69/53 (res. 26/1)], the Council decided to transmit to the Assembly the report of the Working Group containing the draft programme of activities [A/HRC/26/55].

On 18 November, by resolution 69/16 (see below), the Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the Decade, which were annexed to the resolution. The theme of the Decade was “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development.”

GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 18 November [meeting 55], the General Assembly adopted resolution 69/16 (draft: A/69/L.3) without vote [agenda item 66 (b)].

Programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 68/237 of 23 December 2013, by which it proclaimed the International Decade for People of African Descent, commencing on 1 January 2015 and ending on 31 December 2024, with the theme “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”, to be officially launched immediately following the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, and to this end emphasizing the opportunity for achieving important synergy in the combating of all the scourges of racism through the effective observance of the Decade, and in this regard contributing to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Recalling also its resolution 64/169 of 18 December 2009, by which it proclaimed 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent, bearing in mind the primacy of building on the gains achieved during the implementation of the programme of activities for the Year, and to this end recalling paragraph 61 of its resolution 66/144 of 19 December 2011, by which it encouraged the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent to develop a programme of action, including a theme, for adoption by the Human Rights Council, with a view to proclaiming the International Decade for People of African Descent before the end of 2013,

Recalling further its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, by which it decided to convene the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and its resolutions 56/266 of 27 March 2002, 57/195 of 18 December 2002, 58/160 of 22 December 2003, 59/177 of 20 December 2004 and 60/144 of 16 December 2005, which guided the comprehensive follow-up to the World Conference and the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,

Cognizant of its resolution 62/122 of 17 December 2007, by which it designated 25 March as the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade,

Committed to upholding human dignity and equality for the victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, in particular people of African descent in the African diaspora,

Welcoming the work undertaken by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action on the elaboration of a draft programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent,

Taking note of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the elaboration of a draft programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade,

1. Adopts the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent annexed to the present resolution;

2. Urges States to ensure that activities and objectives for the Decade are planned and implemented in accordance with paragraph 10 of the programme of activities for the implementation of the Decade on the basis of full consultation and collaboration with people of African descent;

3. Decides to appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to act as coordinator of the Decade in order to follow up on the implementation of activities in the framework of the Decade;

4. Requests States and encourages relevant human rights bodies, organs and mechanisms of the United Nations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations, including organizations of people of African descent, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders to develop and implement specific action-oriented activities in their areas of competence;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit annually a progress report on the implementation of the activities of the Decade;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget of the United Nations for the effective implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for this purpose;

7. Requests the President of the General Assembly to convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions before the seventy-fourth session of the Assembly;
Chapter I: Promotion of human rights

services, housing and social security. In many cases, their
scent still have limited access to quality education, health
and national bodies demonstrate that people of African de-
marginalized groups. Studies and findings by international
recent migrants, constitute some of the poorest and most
of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or as more
descent throughout the world, whether as descendants
in inequality and disadvantage. People of African
indirect, de facto and de jure, continue to manifest them-
advancement, racism and racial discrimination, both direct and

8. Requests the Secretary-General to convene a fi-
nal assessment of the Decade, to take place within the
framework of a high-level international event, marking the
closure of the Decade;
9. Decides to officially launch the Decade in accordance
with General Assembly resolution 68/237 immediately fol-
lowing the general debate of the sixty-ninth session of the
Assembly, with the requisite global visibility and appropriate
profile, whose modalities shall be coordinated by the Pres-
ident of the Assembly in consultation with Member States.

Annex
Programme of activities for the implementation of the
International Decade for People of African Descent

I. Introduction
A. Background
1. The International Decade for People of African Descent, to be observed from 2015 to 2024, constitutes an auspicious period of history when the United Nations, Member States, civil society and all other relevant actors will join together with people of African descent and take effective measures for the implementation of the programme of activities in the spirit of recognition, justice and development. The programme of activities recognizes that the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action is a comprehensive United Nations framework and a solid foundation for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and represents a new stage in the efforts of the United Nations and the international community to restore the rights and dignity of people of African descent.
2. The implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade is an integral part of the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and in compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination as the principal international instruments for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Important synergies should therefore be achieved through the International Decade in the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.
3. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action acknowledged that people of African descent were victims of slavery, the slave trade and colonialism, and continue to be victims of their consequences. The Durban process raised the visibility of people of African descent and contributed to a substantive advancement in the promotion and protection of their rights as a result of concrete actions taken by States, the United Nations, other international and regional bodies and civil society.
4. Regrettably, despite the above-mentioned advances, racism and racial discrimination, both direct and indirect, de facto and de jure, continue to manifest themselves in inequality and disadvantage. People of African descent throughout the world, whether as descendants of the victims of the transatlantic slave trade or as more recent migrants, constitute some of the poorest and most marginalized groups. Studies and findings by international and national bodies demonstrate that people of African descent still have limited access to quality education, health services, housing and social security. In many cases, their situation remains largely invisible, and insufficient recogni-
tion and respect has been given to the efforts of people of African descent to seek redress for their present condition. They all too often experience discrimination in their access to justice, and face alarmingly high rates of police violence, together with racial profiling. Furthermore, their degree of political participation is often low, both in voting and in occupying political positions.
5. People of African descent can suffer from multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as age, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth or other status.
6. The promotion and protection of human rights of people of African descent should be a priority concern for the United Nations. In this regard, the International Decade for People of African Descent is a timely and important initiative, a unique opportunity to underline the important contribution made by people of African descent to our societies and to propose concrete measures to promote their full inclusion and to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

B. Theme of the International Decade
7. As proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/237, the theme of the International Decade is “People of African descent: recognition, justice and development”.

C. Objectives of the International Decade
8. Non-discrimination and equality before and of the law constitute fundamental principles of international human rights law, and underpin the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the main international human rights treaties and instruments. As such, the main objective of the International Decade should be to promote respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent, as recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This main objective can be achieved through the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration commemorating the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and through the universal accession to or ratification of and full implementation of the obligations arising under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international and regional human rights instruments.
9. The International Decade shall focus on the following specific objectives:
(a) To strengthen national, regional and international action and cooperation in relation to the full enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights by people of African descent and their full and equal participation in all aspects of society;
(b) To promote a greater knowledge of and respect for the diverse heritage, culture and contribution of people of African descent to the development of societies;
(c) To adopt and strengthen national, regional and international legal frameworks in accordance with the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, as the principal international instruments for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
of Racial Discrimination, and to ensure their full and effective implementation.

II. Activities to be conducted during the International Decade

A. National level

10. States should take concrete and practical steps through the adoption and effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks, policies and programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance faced by people of African descent, taking into account the particular situation of women, girls and young males, by, inter alia, the activities described below.

1. Recognition

(a) Right to equality and non-discrimination

11. States should:

(a) Remove all obstacles that prevent their equal enjoyment of all human rights, economic, social, cultural, civil and political, including the right to development;

(b) Promote the effective implementation of national and international legal frameworks;

(c) Withdraw reservations contrary to the object and purpose of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and consider withdrawing other reservations;

(d) Undertake a comprehensive review of domestic legislation with a view to identifying and abolishing provisions that entail direct or indirect discrimination;

(e) Adopt or strengthen comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and ensure its effective implementation;

(f) Provide effective protection for people of African descent, and review and repeal all laws that have a discriminatory effect on people of African descent facing multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination;

(g) Adopt, strengthen and implement action-oriented policies, programmes and projects to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance designed to ensure full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by people of African descent; States are also encouraged to elaborate national plans of action to promote diversity, equality, equity, social justice, equality of opportunity and the participation of all;

(h) Establish and/or strengthen national mechanisms or institutions with a view to formulating, monitoring and implementing policies to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and promoting racial equality, with the participation of representatives of civil society;

(i) As appropriate, establish and/or strengthen independent national human rights institutions, in conformity with the Paris Principles, and/or similar mechanisms with the participation of civil society, and provide them with adequate financial resources, competence and capacity for protection, promotion and monitoring to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

(b) Education on equality and awareness-raising

12. States should:

(a) Celebrate the launch of the International Decade at the national level, and develop national programmes of action and activities for the full and effective implementation of the Decade;

(b) Organize national conferences and other events aimed at triggering an open debate and raising awareness on the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, with the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including government, civil society representatives and individuals or groups of individuals who are victims;

(c) Promote greater knowledge and recognition of and respect for the culture, history and heritage of people of African descent, including through research and education, and promote full and accurate inclusion of the history and contribution of people of African descent in educational curricula;

(d) Promote the positive role that political leaders and political parties, leaders of religious communities and the media could further play in fighting racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance by, inter alia, publicly recognizing and respecting the culture, history and heritage of people of African descent;

(e) Raise awareness through information and education measures with a view to restoring the dignity of people of African descent, and consider making available the support for such activities to non-governmental organizations;

(f) Support education and training initiatives for non-governmental organizations and people of African descent in the use of the tools provided by international human rights instruments relating to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

(g) Ensure that textbooks and other educational materials reflect historical facts accurately as they relate to past tragedies and atrocities, in particular slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism, so as to avoid stereotypes and the distortion or falsification of these historical facts, which may lead to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, including the role of respective countries therein, by:

(i) Supporting research and educational initiatives;

(ii) Giving recognition to the victims and their descendants through the establishment of memorial sites in countries that profited from and/or were responsible for slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism and past tragedies where there is none, as well as at departure, arrival and relocation points, and by protecting related cultural sites.

(c) Information-gathering

13. In accordance with paragraph 92 of the Durban Programme of Action, States should collect, compile, analyse, disseminate and publish reliable statistical data at the national and local levels and take all other related measures necessary to assess regularly the situation of people of African descent who are victims of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

14. Such statistical data should be disaggregated in accordance with national legislation, upholding the right to privacy and the principle of self-identification.

15. The information should be collected to monitor the situation of people of African descent, assess progress made,
increase their visibility and identify social gaps. It should also be used to assess and guide the formulation of policies and actions to prevent, combat and eradicate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

(d) Participation and inclusion

16. States should adopt measures to enable the full, equal and effective participation of people of African descent in public and political affairs without discrimination, in accordance with international human rights law.

2. Justice

(a) Access to justice

17. States should take further measures, by:

(a) Introducing measures to ensure equality before the law, notably in the enjoyment of the right to equal treatment before the tribunals and all other organs administering justice;

(b) Designing, implementing and enforcing effective measures to eliminate the phenomenon popularly known as “racial profiling”;

(c) Eliminating institutionalized stereotypes concerning people of African descent and applying appropriate sanctions against law enforcement officials who act on the basis of racial profiling;

(d) Ensuring that people of African descent have full access to effective protection and remedies through the competent national tribunals and other State institutions against any acts of racial discrimination, and the right to seek from such tribunals just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such discrimination;

(e) Adopting effective and appropriate measures, including legal measures as appropriate, to combat all acts of racism, in particular the dissemination of ideas based on racial superiority or hatred, incitement to racial hatred, violence or incitement to racial violence, as well as racist propaganda activities and participation in racist organizations; States are also encouraged to ensure that such motivations are considered an aggravating factor for the purpose of sentencing;

(f) Facilitating access to justice for people of African descent who are victims of racism by providing the requisite legal information about their rights, and providing legal assistance when appropriate;

(g) Preventing and punishing all human rights violations affecting people of African descent, including violence, acts of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, including those committed by State officials;

(h) Ensuring that people of African descent, like all other persons, enjoy all the guarantees of a fair trial and equality before the law as enshrined in relevant international human rights instruments, and specifically the right to presumption of innocence, the right to assistance of counsel and to an interpreter, the right to an independent and impartial tribunal, guarantees of justice, and all the rights to which prisoners are entitled;

(i) Acknowledging and profoundly regretting the untold suffering and evils inflicted on millions of men, women and children as a result of slavery, the slave trade, the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism, apartheid, genocide and past tragedies, noting that some States have taken the initiative to apologize and have paid reparation, where appropriate, for grave and massive violations committed, and calling upon those that have not yet expressed remorse or presented apologies to find some way to contribute to the restoration of the dignity of victims;

(j) Inviting the international community and its members to honour the memory of the victims of these tragedies with a view to closing those dark chapters in history and as a means of reconciliation and healing; further noting that some have taken the initiative of regretting or expressing remorse or presenting apologies, and calling upon all those that have not yet contributed to restoring the dignity of the victims to find appropriate ways to do so and, to this end, appreciating those countries that have done so;

(k) Calling upon all States concerned to take appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of those practices, bearing in mind their moral obligations.

(b) Special measures

18. The adoption of special measures, such as affirmative action, where appropriate, is essential to alleviating and remedying disparities in the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms affecting people of African descent, protecting them from discrimination and overcoming persistent or structural disparities and de facto inequalities resulting from historical circumstances. As such, States should develop or elaborate national plans of action to promote diversity, equality, social justice, equality of opportunity and the participation of all. By means of, inter alia, affirmative or positive actions and strategies, these plans should aim at creating conditions for all to participate effectively in decision-making and to realize civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights in all spheres of life on the basis of non-discrimination.

3. Development

(a) Right to development and measures against poverty

19. Consistent with the Declaration on the Right to Development, States should adopt measures aimed at guaranteeing active, free and meaningful participation by all individuals, including people of African descent, in development and decision-making related thereto and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom.

20. Recognizing that poverty is both a cause and a consequence of discrimination, States should, as appropriate, adopt or strengthen national programmes for eradicating poverty and reducing social exclusion that take account of the specific needs and experiences of people of African descent, and should also expand their efforts to foster bilateral, regional and international cooperation in implementing those programmes.

21. States should implement actions to protect ancestral groups of people of African descent.

(b) Education

22. States should take all necessary measures to give effect to the right of people of African descent, particularly children and young people, to free primary education and access to all levels and forms of quality public education without discrimination. States should:

(a) Ensure that quality education is accessible and available in areas where communities of African descent
live, particularly in rural and marginalized communities, with attention to improving the quality of public education;

(c) Take measures to ensure that public and private education systems do not discriminate against or exclude children of African descent, and that they are protected from direct or indirect discrimination, negative stereotyping, stigmatization and violence from peers or teachers; to this end, training and sensitization should be provided to teachers and measures should be taken to increase the number of teachers of African descent working in educational institutions.

(c) Employment

23. States should take concrete measures to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the workplace against all workers, in particular people of African descent, including migrants, and ensure the full equality of all before the law, including labour law, and eliminate barriers, where appropriate, to participation in vocational training, collective bargaining, employment, contracts and trade union activity; access to judicial and administrative tribunals dealing with grievances; seeking employment in different parts of their country of residence; and working in safe and healthy conditions.

(d) Health

24. States should take measures to improve access to quality health services for people of African descent.

(e) Housing

25. Recognizing the poor and insecure housing conditions in which many people of African descent live, States should develop and implement policies and projects as appropriate aimed at, inter alia, ensuring that they gain and sustain a safe and secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity.

4. Multiple or aggravated discrimination

26. States should adopt and implement policies and programmes that provide effective protection for, and review and repeal all policies and laws that could discriminate against, people of African descent facing multiple, aggravated or intersecting forms of discrimination based on other related grounds, such as sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.

27. States should mainstream a gender perspective when designing and monitoring public policies, taking into account the specific needs and realities of women and girls of African descent, including in the area of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, and ensure adequate access to maternal health care.

B. Regional and international levels

1. Steps to be taken by the international community and international and regional organizations

28. The international community, international and regional organizations, in particular relevant United Nations programmes, funds, specialized agencies and other bodies, international financial and development institutions, and other international mechanisms within their areas of competence should give high priority to programmes and projects specifically tailored for combating racism and racial discrimination against people of African descent, taking fully into account the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and should, inter alia:

(a) Take measures to raise awareness about the International Decade, including through awareness-raising campaigns, and organizing and supporting other activities, bearing in mind the theme of the Decade;

(b) Continue to disseminate widely the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(c) Continue to raise awareness about the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;

(d) Assist States in the full and effective implementation of the obligations arising under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and in ratifying or acceding to the Convention, with a view to attaining its universal ratification;

(e) Assist States in the full and effective implementation of their commitments under the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;

(f) Incorporate human rights into development programmes, including in the areas of access to and enjoyment of the rights to education, employment, health, housing, land and labour;

(g) Assign particular priority to the projects devoted to the collection of statistical data;

(h) Support initiatives and projects, aimed at honouring and preserving the historical memory of people of African descent;

(i) Use the Decade as an opportunity to engage with people of African descent on appropriate and effective measures to halt and reverse the lasting consequences of slavery, the slave trade and the transatlantic slave trade in captured African people and, to this end, ensure the participation of and consultation with non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and civil society at large;

(j) In planning activities for the Decade, examine how existing programmes and resources might be utilized to benefit people of African descent more effectively;

(k) Give due consideration to the goals and objectives aimed at the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance against people of African descent in the discussions held by the United Nations on the post-2015 development agenda.

2. Steps and measures to be taken by the General Assembly

29. The General Assembly should:

(a) Appoint the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to act as coordinator of the Decade in
order to follow up on the implementation of activities in the framework of the Decade;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to submit an annual progress report on the implementation of activities of the Decade, taking into account information and views provided by States, relevant human rights bodies, organs and mechanisms of the United Nations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes, international, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations, including organizations of people of African descent, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders;

(c) Request the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and regional and subregional organizations, to launch an awareness-raising campaign to inform the general public of the history, contributions, including to global development challenges, contemporary experiences and situation of human rights of people of African descent;

(d) Encourage the issuance of a stamp by the United Nations postal administration on the International Decade for People of African Descent;

(e) Invite regional and subregional organizations, specialized agencies, and United Nations programmes, funds and offices to develop studies in their respective areas of competence and expertise and to report on the themes of the Decade; such studies could be used to inform a midterm review of the Decade to monitor the progress made, share learning practices among key actors and inform plans and policies for the remaining five years of the Decade and beyond;

(f) Request the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue and strengthen its fellowship programme for people of African descent during the Decade;

(g) Request the Office of the High Commissioner to include a section on the anti-discrimination database on the International Decade for People of African Descent;

(h) Request States to consider adopting measures to further promote and protect the human rights of people of African descent as enshrined in international human rights instruments, including through the elaboration of a draft United Nations declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent;

(i) Decide to establish a forum to serve as a consultation mechanism, to be provided by one of the existing Durban follow-up mechanisms such as the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent or the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and in this regard requests the Human Rights Council to allocate two or three days of the annual sessions of one of these mechanisms that shall be devoted to this purpose and that would ensure the inclusive participation of all States Members of the United Nations, United Nations funds and programmes, specialized agencies, civil society organizations of people of African descent and all other relevant stakeholders;

(j) Request the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to further increase and strengthen support for the relevant mechanisms of the Human Rights Council in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of the Decade;

(k) Encourage all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private institutions and individuals, as well as other donors in a position to do so, to contribute generously to the Trust Fund for the Programme for the Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination with a view to contributing to the successful implementation of the programme;

(l) Request the Secretary-General to accord high priority to executing the programme of activities for the International Decade, and to allocate predictable funding from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources of the United Nations to the effective implementation of the programme of action and activities of the Decade;

(m) Keep the Decade under review, and convene a midterm review to take stock of the progress made and decide on further necessary actions;

(n) Convene a final assessment of the Decade, to be held within the framework of a high-level international event, marking the closure of the International Decade for People of African Descent;

(o) Ensure the completion of the construction and the inauguration, before the midterm review in 2020, of a permanent memorial at United Nations Headquarters to honour the memory of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade.

International Albinism Awareness Day

**Human Rights Council action.** On 26 June [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], the Human Rights Council took note of the OHCHR preliminary report on persons with albinism [YUN 2013, p. 705]; recommended that the General Assembly proclaim 13 June as “International Albinism Awareness Day” and invited States, UN system entities and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including NGOs and individuals, to observe the Day; and urged the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Council to continue to give attention to the situation of persons with albinism. It also requested the High Commissioner to keep the Council informed at its twenty-ninth (2015) session of initiatives taken to raise awareness and protect the rights of persons with albinism; and to bring the resolution to the attention of all States and UN organizations.

On 18 December, by resolution 69/170 (see below), the General Assembly proclaimed 13 June as “International Albinism Awareness Day”, with effect from 2015.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 18 December [meeting 73], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/69/488/Add.2 & Corr.1], adopted resolution 69/170 by recorded vote (171-0-16) [agenda item 68(b)].

**International Albinism Awareness Day**

*The General Assembly,*

**Recalling** Human Rights Council resolutions 23/13 of 13 June 2013 on attacks and discrimination against persons
with albinism, 24/33 of 27 September 2013 on technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism and 26/10 of 26 June 2014 on International Albinism Awareness Day;

Taking note of the preliminary report on persons with albinism submitted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fourth session,

Taking note also of African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights resolution 263 of 5 November 2013 on the prevention of attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism,

Expressing concern at the attacks against persons with albinism, including women and children, which are often committed with impunity,

Welcoming the efforts by States to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against persons with albinism,

Welcoming also the increased international attention to the human rights situation of persons with albinism, including the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children,

Encouraging Member States to continue their efforts to protect and preserve the rights of persons with albinism to life, dignity and security, as well as their right not to be subject to torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and to continue their efforts to ensure equal access for persons with albinism to employment, education, justice and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health,

Emphasizing the imperative need to enhance the promotion and protection of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as a matter of priority for the international community,

Noting that, in many parts of the world, awareness of the human rights situation of persons with albinism remains limited, and recognizing the importance of increasing awareness and understanding of albinism in order to fight against global discrimination and stigma against persons with albinism,

Welcoming the observance by civil society actors of 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day,

Taking note of the recommendation by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 26/10 that the General Assembly proclaim 13 June International Albinism Awareness Day,

Recalling its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries,

1. Decides to proclaim, with effect from 2015, 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day;
2. Invites all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations and individuals, to observe International Albinism Awareness Day in an appropriate manner;
3. Invites Member States to provide the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with information on the initiatives taken to promote and protect the human rights of persons with albinism, including efforts to increase awareness of the human rights situation of persons with albinism and understanding of albinism;
4. Invites the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Human Rights Council to continue to give attention, within their respective mandates, to the situation of persons with albinism;
5. Recalls the request to the High Commissioner to inform the Human Rights Council at its twenty-ninth session of the initiatives taken to raise awareness and promote the protection of the rights of persons with albinism;
6. Requests the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all Member States and United Nations organizations.

RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 69/170:

In favour: Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against: None.


Follow-up to the 1993 World Conference

Report of Third Committee. On 1 December, the Third Committee of the General Assembly reported [A/69/488/Add.4] on the implementation of and follow-up to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

On 18 December, the General Assembly took note of the report (decision 69/535).