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Agenda item 70 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Australia, Cameroon* and Zimbabwe: draft resolution

Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution [55/105](#) of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also its resolutions [55/34 B](#) of 20 November 2000 and [55/233](#) of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution [55/234](#) of 23 December 2000 and its resolution [56/253](#) of 24 December 2001,

Recalling further its resolutions [58/176](#) of 22 December 2003, [59/183](#) of 20 December 2004, [60/151](#) of 16 December 2005, [61/158](#) of 19 December 2006, [62/221](#) of 22 December 2007, [63/177](#) of 18 December 2008, [64/165](#) of 18 December 2009, [66/162](#) of 19 December 2011, [68/174](#) of 18 December 2013, [70/167](#) of 17 December 2015 and [72/187](#) of 19 December 2017 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,¹

Recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,²

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Economic Community of Central African States.

¹ See [A/CONF.157/24 \(Part I\)](#), chap. III.

² *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36*, addendum ([A/56/36/Add.1](#)).



Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,³

Noting the holding of the forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in Kigali from 4 to 8 December 2017, in Brazzaville from 29 May to 1 June 2018, in N'Djamena from 3 to 7 December 2018 and in Kinshasa from 27 to 31 May 2019,

Taking note of the launch of a far-reaching organizational change initiative in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to better integrating work at Headquarters and in the field,⁴

Noting the security and humanitarian situation in the subregion, and in particular the challenges created by indiscriminate attacks and massive abuses of human rights by terrorist groups, including Boko Haram, against the civilian population in many countries of the Central African subregion and in the Lake Chad basin countries,

Noting also that the effective presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the countries covered and continued dialogue with the authorities have generated an increased number of requests for assistance from States,³

Mindful of the vastness and diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within the subregion, and taking into account the need for sufficient funding of the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the subregion,

1. *Welcomes* the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;

2. *Notes with satisfaction* the support provided for the establishment of the Centre by the host country;

3. *Also notes with satisfaction* the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, and in this regard encourages the Centre, in delivering and reporting its activities, to give equal consideration to all of the countries covered and to all human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights;

4. *Encourages* the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the implementation of the strategic thematic priorities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the engagement of the Centre in the area of human rights in development and in the economic sphere, through advocacy and the provision of guidance to States, private sector companies and businesses in the subregion, with a view to strengthening commitments to protect and/or respect human rights, and encourages the Centre to increase its support in this field;

6. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams of the subregion;

7. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based

³ A/74/460.

⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/70/36)*, chap. III.

in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

8. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly⁵ in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner, taking note of the organizational change initiative in the Office of the High Commissioner, to continue to provide additional funds and human resources, including human resources from within the subregion, within the existing resources of the Office to enable the Centre to respond positively and effectively to the growing needs in the promotion and protection of human rights and in developing a culture of democracy and the rule of law in the Central African subregion;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

⁵ Resolutions [61/158](#), [62/221](#), [63/177](#), [64/165](#) and [72/187](#).