



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

Eighteenth session

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Senegal (on behalf of the African group): draft resolution

18/... Human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling previous resolutions of the General Assembly, the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council on hostage-taking, on human rights and terrorism and on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism, in particular Assembly resolutions 61/172 of 19 December 2006 and 64/168 of 18 December 2009, Commission resolutions 2004/44 of 19 April 2004 and 2005/31 of 19 April 2005, Council resolution 13/26 of 26 March 2010 and Council decision 15/116 of 1 October 2010,

Recalling also all General Assembly resolutions on measures to eliminate international terrorism and on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including resolutions 46/51 of 9 December 1991, 60/288 of 8 September 2006 and 64/297 of 8 September 2010,

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 1904 (2009) of 17 December 2009,

Underlining the importance of the ratification of all relevant international conventions against terrorism, especially the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages,

Reaffirming, in particular, that peace and security, development and human rights are the interrelated pillars of the United Nations system, and renewing its commitment to strengthen international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism,

Reaffirming also that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to the fight against terrorism, and recognizing that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting goals but are complementary and mutually reinforcing,

Expressing concern at the continued increase in incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking by terrorists and their impact on the realization and the enjoyment of human rights,

Recognizing that the fight against terrorist hostage-taking contributes to the reinforcement of peace, security and stability,

1. *Recognizes* the need to reflect on the question of human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking;

2. *Welcomes* the holding of a panel discussion on the issue of human rights in the context of action taken to address terrorist hostage-taking by the Human Rights Council at its sixteenth session;

3. *Takes note* of the summary of the panel's deliberations prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;¹

4. *Recognizes* that the issue of hostage-taking by terrorist groups and actions taken pursuant thereto, including ransom payments, poses a number of challenges not only for the protection of the human rights of hostages but also for the protection and enjoyment of these rights by local communities in the countries of the regions affected by this scourge;

5. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to prepare a study on the issue described in paragraph 4 above, focusing in particular on:

(a) The impact of hostage-taking by terrorist groups and actions taken pursuant thereto, including ransom payments, on the protection, realization and enjoyment of the human rights of hostages as well as those of the local communities concerned, including in terms of peace, security and stability, as well as development, and on remedial action thereto, including the role of regional and international cooperation in this field;

(b) An assessment of the adequacy of the response contained in existing international human rights instruments to the challenges referred to in paragraph 4 above;

6. *Encourages* the Advisory Committee when elaborating such a study to take into account, as appropriate, the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations bodies and mechanisms;

7. *Requests* the Advisory Committee to present an update report on the study to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-first session, and to submit the study to the Council at its twenty-third session.

¹ A/HRC/18/29.