

**Human Rights Council****Forty-third session**

24 February–20 March 2020

Agenda item 5

Human rights bodies and mechanisms**Overview of consultations on the contribution of the Human Rights Council to the prevention of human rights violations****Report of the rapporteurs****Summary*

The present report is presented by Yvette Stevens, Pablo de Greiff and Nils Muižnieks, the rapporteurs appointed pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 38/18 on the contribution of the Council to the prevention of human rights violations. It provides an overview of the two seminars that the rapporteurs organized in Geneva in April and October 2019, as well as the consultations they conducted in Geneva and New York. The report makes recommendations on how to improve the preventive role of the Council and its mechanisms, as outlined in General Assembly resolution 60/251, paragraph 5 (f). It also makes suggestions, as requested in resolution 38/18, on how the Council can work more effectively with all pillars of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and contributing to sustaining peace and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

* Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitters' control.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is presented to the Human Rights Council pursuant to its resolution 38/18. After a series of resolutions on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights,¹ it was decided, in resolution 38/18, to convene two intersessional seminars with States and other relevant stakeholders on the contribution that the Human Rights Council could make to the prevention of human rights violations. The Council also requested its President to appoint a chair-rapporteur and two rapporteurs to chair and facilitate the two intersessional seminars in Geneva, and to consult and gather the views of relevant stakeholders in Geneva and New York, as well as to present a report to the Council at its forty-third session. On 18 October 2018, the President of the Council appointed Yvette Stevens as chair-rapporteur and Pablo de Greiff and Nils Muižnieks as rapporteurs.

A. Scope of the mandate

2. In its resolution 38/18, the Council reaffirmed, in the preambular paragraphs, that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing. In the present report, the rapporteurs focus therefore on the prevention of violations of all human rights, whether they are civil and political, or economic, social and cultural. In addition, resolution 38/18 should be understood as referring to the need for prevention in diverse contexts, ranging from those in which violations are systematic (be they conflict situations or not) to those in which violations are more sporadic or yet to occur, but for which preventive measures are needed.

3. In the resolution, the Council further specified the institutional focus of the report, namely the role of the Council in the prevention of human rights violations and its capacity to respond to human rights emergencies. In resolution 38/18, the Council referred to General Assembly resolution 60/251, paragraph 5 (f), in which the Assembly outlined the mutually reinforcing elements of the preventive role of the Council, namely: to contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations and respond promptly to human rights emergencies. With this in mind, in resolution 38/18, the Council tasked the three rapporteurs with presenting proposals on how it could effectively contribute in the future to the prevention of human rights violations.

4. In resolution 38/18, the Council also requested that the rapporteurs give due consideration to how it can work effectively with all pillars of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening system-wide coherence and contributing to sustaining peace and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as to the availability in the United Nations system of financial resources for human rights promotion, and for prevention in particular.

B. Methodology

5. Pursuant to their mandate, the three rapporteurs organized two intersessional seminars in Geneva. The first seminar, held on 9 and 10 April 2019, considered how the Council and its mechanisms had fulfilled their preventive mandate and how they could prevent human rights violations more effectively in the future. The second seminar, held on 8 October 2019, examined the interaction between the Council and the peace and security and the development pillars of the United Nations. It also considered the availability in the United Nations system of financial resources for the prevention of human rights violations.

6. The rapporteurs also consulted, as envisaged by the Council in its resolution 38/18, with the relevant stakeholders in Geneva and New York. In Geneva, the rapporteurs met with regional groups, States, the President of the Council, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and senior managers in her Office, the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, and civil society organizations.

¹ Human Rights Council resolutions 14/5, 18/13, 24/16 and 33/6.

They also conducted a mission to New York from 10 to 14 June 2019, during which they met with members of the Security Council, the President of the General Assembly and some of its members, the President of the Economic and Social Council, States, the Secretary-General, departments of the Secretariat, other United Nations agencies, the World Bank and civil society organizations.

C. Preliminary considerations

7. “Prevention” is a term with many meanings. Discussions about prevention within the United Nations tend to leave the term undefined, or to concentrate most often on the prevention of conflict, including the role of the international community in crises. This makes States apprehensive, fearing that prevention is a pretext to intervene in their internal affairs. The rapporteurs wish to emphasize that the perception that prevention may threaten in any way national sovereignty often stems from discussions that turn on abstract and largely undefined terms. This impression would, to a large extent, be dispelled by concentrating on specific preventive policies and programmes.

8. The bulk of preventive work, including when technical assistance is provided by the international community, takes place at the national level, on the initiative and under the direction of national authorities. The majority of programmes that are effective for the prevention of human rights violations involve the design and implementation of policies that are the prerogative and in the interests of the States concerned. When States carry out preventive work in order to comply with the international obligation to do so, this should not be viewed as a purely external constraint, but rather as compliance with an international obligation voluntarily adhered to by the State concerned. Furthermore, international law intentionally leaves States broad latitude to define how, concretely, they satisfy their international obligations through the design and implementation of policies at the national level.

9. Similarly, the rapporteurs would like to emphasize the importance of the emerging consensus about widening and “upstreaming” preventive work. The fact that most discussions about prevention concentrate on crisis prevention, early warning and early action, as important as these are, reinforces apprehension about interventionism. The need for early warning and early action always implies that preventive work was not effective or did not occur in the first place. Prevention, to be effective, requires a long-term approach based on the identification of the root causes of crises, which, if not tackled, may lead to human rights emergencies or conflicts. These causes include factors such as various forms of discrimination or a lack of access to justice and lack of enjoyment of socioeconomic rights. Prevention should not be restricted to operational prevention, aimed at averting specific threats of human rights violations or de-escalating ongoing violations. It should also include structural prevention, which is meant to unlock systemic violations and reduce the long-term likelihood of violations.

10. Furthermore, as highlighted by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, prevention needs not only to be upstreamed, but tackled in a more systematic way (see A/72/523 and A/HRC/37/65). Over time, vast knowledge and expertise have been gained about prevention. The greatest obstacles to progress in this area are, from a practical standpoint, poor investments and weak commitments, and, from an epistemic standpoint, not so much a dearth of knowledge but its disaggregation and “siloization”. The thick disciplinary lines characteristic of thinking on prevention, accompanied by institutional fragmentation of work in the area, and the prioritization of emergency interventions have led to the sidelining of issues that are clearly relevant for prevention and about which significant expertise has been accumulated. These issues consist of policies, often taken on the initiative of States, that remain under their control and responsibility and that transcend the timespan of crisis prevention.

11. Finally, it is important to recall that, although the idea of rights as claims-raising mechanisms is their most salient dimension, and certainly a crucial one, human rights were originally designed not merely as redress mechanisms (that is, as means of ex post reactions to violations), but more as protective measures (to avoid ex ante harms). Yet, the way in which human rights resolve general problems before they arise, by building trust in State institutions, consolidating general interests and enabling forms of community, is often elided. This makes discussions about the role of human rights in prevention almost a non-

starter. But some of the crucial notions associated with the core of human rights, including equality and non-discrimination, can be seen as preventive and anti-grievance mechanisms. By guaranteeing conditions of inclusion, or at the very least protection against the various forms of marginalization and discrimination, both of individuals and communities, human rights have a great potential to prevent the circumstances under which grievances usually occur.

II. Overview of the intersessional seminars

12. In its resolution 38/18, the Council requested that the rapporteurs provide, in their report, an overview of the views reflected in the two seminars. Participants in the first seminar, when examining the preventive role played by the Council's mechanisms, called for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to compile good practices on prevention, including actions targeting the root causes of violations, in order to build resilient societies. They insisted on the critical role of human rights education and the need to build national capacities. National mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up have a great role to play in this respect. Participants emphasized that, at the national level, all actors, including parliamentarians, should be consulted or involved in the preparation of reports of the Council's mechanisms, including those of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. They called for all mechanisms, including special procedures, to favour a spirit of dialogue and cooperation and to implement their mandates as set forth in their establishing resolutions. They also asked that investigative mechanisms be put in place more rapidly. The need for additional funding to implement the recommendations of the Council's mechanisms and respond to increasing demands was also highlighted.

13. During the second seminar, participants acknowledged the gap between Geneva and New York and called for the Council and its mechanisms to be given more opportunities to brief United Nations bodies in New York. They called for greater integration of human rights in conflict prevention activities. Some participants highlighted that sanctions that have an impact on people's enjoyment of rights should be avoided. The need for more regular early warning briefings by the High Commissioner to the Council and for prompt action based on those briefings was emphasized. Some participants supported moving from confrontation to dialogue and further engagement with States facing human rights challenges. The need for more confidential settings to conduct preventive diplomacy was also highlighted.

III. How can the Council's mechanisms contribute more effectively to the prevention of human rights violations?

14. In the preambular paragraphs of resolution 38/18, the Council reaffirmed the relevance of its existing procedures and mechanisms, particularly the universal periodic review, the special procedures, the complaints procedure, the Advisory Committee and the open-ended intergovernmental working groups, to the prevention of human rights violations. The following remarks reflect the views expressed during the first intersessional seminar and during consultations conducted subsequently.

A. Advisory Committee

15. The thematic studies conducted by the Advisory Committee have a preventive potential. Discussions, including panel discussions, and workshops on specific topics organized by the Advisory Committee have raised awareness of new or complex human rights issues. Some of its reports have led to the creation of protection mandates and to the adoption of new standards. Due to its collegial nature, its respect of geographical balance in its composition and the emphasis placed on participation in its methods of work, the Advisory Committee is a mechanism that could be used more effectively to build consensus on prevention-related issues.

16. The consultations highlighted, however, that the reports of the Advisory Committee were not sufficiently known and disseminated within the Council, let alone more widely. It

was suggested that OHCHR draft a handbook to disseminate summaries of the reports and recommendations of the Advisory Committee. In addition, it was recommended that the Advisory Committee, for its part, make more actionable recommendations, trying to identify entities able to implement them.

B. Confidential complaint procedure

17. The confidential complaint procedure is the only universal complaint mechanism covering all rights in all States, without distinction. A complaint can be submitted by individuals or civil society organizations against any State, irrespective of whether the State has ratified any particular treaty. This alone makes it a potentially valuable tool. Moreover, two aspects of the methods of work of the complaint procedure's working groups (on communications and on situations) have proved to be real assets in terms of prevention. First, the confidential nature of the complaint procedure encourages greater cooperation from the State concerned.² Second, both working groups have adopted a victim-centred approach, which enables them, when needed, to enter into a written dialogue with complainants and to keep them informed of the proceedings, and to explore with the States concerned the measures necessary to provide effective remedies for the victims. These methods of work have led to the release of detainees, bloggers and political opponents; reduced prison sentences; the adoption of amnesty laws; the alignment of national laws with international human rights standards; the granting of compensation to victims; and the establishment of independent national commissions of inquiry. The complaint procedure has also contributed to truth and reconciliation processes by declassifying information at the request of some States. It has also led some States to increase their engagement with human rights mechanisms, including by accepting country visits by special procedures.

18. The complaint procedure, however, is not sufficiently known despite outreach activities, including briefings for States and civil society organizations, and the publication of an information booklet. More briefings should be conducted. The decision of the Working Group on Communications to enhance its visibility by using social media and other technologies is a welcome initiative.

19. The proceedings of both working groups are based only on written materials, which always slows down their progress. To increase the efficiency of the working groups, notably to address urgent situations, the possibility for them to conduct country visits could be explored, as well as holding hearings with victims and representatives of the States concerned. In addition, the merit of the non-duplication principle, which prevents the complaints procedure from using data from other United Nations communications procedures, should be revisited for the complaints procedure to gain access to sufficient data to identify consistent patterns of violations more efficiently. Synergies with other human rights mechanisms should also be enhanced. For instance, the Working Group on Communications could participate in the annual or coordination meetings of the special procedures and treaty bodies.

20. For the complaints procedure to make a real difference, its work would need to be significantly scaled up. Only 11 situations concerning 8 countries have been forwarded to the Council for further consideration since the procedure was set up. The consultations showed that discontinued cases may need to be followed up, since discontinuation of a particular case may not always imply the absence of a pattern of violations. This follow-up should be done by the Working Group on Situations, which is the natural channel to engage in a constructive dialogue with States.

C. Forums and open-ended intergovernmental working groups

21. The forums and open-ended intergovernmental working groups have a preventive potential, especially concerning the need for particular attention on the human rights protection of certain groups (indigenous peoples, minorities, children, ethnic and racial groups, peasants and people working in rural areas), in specific contexts (the business

² The response rate from the States concerned to communications is greater than 90 per cent.

sector and the activities of private and military companies) and for the advancement of specific rights (the rights to development, education and peace, democratic rights and those dependent on the rule of law). They constitute platforms for dialogue among the various stakeholders and for sharing good practices. They also contribute to the development and dissemination of new standards (e.g., the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the Declaration on the Right to Development, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, the Complementary Standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the United Nations declaration on human rights education and training, the Declaration on the Right to Peace and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas).

22. The preventive potential of forums and open-ended intergovernmental working groups would undoubtedly be enhanced through a consistent approach to their work on prevention. Prevention could also be a specific topic for discussion, as in the 2018 session of the Forum on Business and Human Rights devoted to the preventive impact of due diligence in the business sector.

D. Special procedures

23. Of the 56 special procedures, 16 have a mandate with a specific dimension on prevention, which are all thematic, not country-specific, special procedures. Notwithstanding this fact, all special procedures have the potential to contribute to prevention in two ways. First, they can play a role in detecting and highlighting emerging human rights issues and sometimes crises through country visits,³ public statements, urgent appeals and communications. Second, they also have the potential to reach a variety of national stakeholders and contribute to more upstream prevention through consultations conducted in the preparation of their reports and recommendations.

24. Some special procedures have focused their work on prevention and have released reports on this specific topic, including the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief, and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. But this is far from the norm. Saying that everything special procedures do is preventive in nature fails to take full advantage of the potential of these mechanisms, which would involve the adoption of an explicitly preventive approach, including, for example, articulating prevention plans with short, medium and long-term goals and corresponding milestones.

25. The preventive potential of special procedures is also undermined by the frequent time lag between mandate holders' country visits and discussion of their reports by the Council. This problem could be mitigated by inviting mandate holders to sessions of the Council during country briefings, as was done with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence to discuss the situation in Sri Lanka. Early warning information and the concerns raised by mandate holders during each calendar year could also be flagged in the annual reports on special procedures presented to the Council.

26. Greater attention should be placed on the follow-up to recommendations of the special procedures. Practices developed by some mandate holders, such as sending a letter to the Government or a questionnaire three years after a country visit, should be systematized. Joint reports by several mandate holders also provide useful opportunities. The recommendations made by special procedures could also be consolidated and transmitted to the Council by the Chair of the Coordination Committee, as well as to other United Nations entities. Progress on follow-up to priority recommendations could be included as a standing agenda item for the annual meetings of special procedures. Key findings could then be shared with the Council, which should also envisage allocating more time under agenda item 5 for States to share information on the measures taken to implement the recommendations of special procedures. The new OHCHR website, which

³ On average, special procedure mandate holders conduct approximately 60 to 80 country visits each year.

features good stories and impactful measures taken on the basis of mandate holders' recommendations, is a good initiative that could be replicated for other mechanisms.

27. Greater synergies and exchange of information between special procedures and other human rights mechanisms should also be promoted. Special procedures and treaty bodies could work together more closely, for example, on country reviews and the consultation processes that lead to the adoption of general recommendations.

E. Universal periodic review

28. The universal periodic review is widely praised for its universality, inclusiveness and acceptance by all States. The long-term preventive potential of this mechanism is also generally acknowledged. Its capacity to address immediate human rights emergencies is limited owing to the periodicity of the review cycle. But here again is a mechanism whose preventive potential is underutilized in the absence of the adoption of an explicitly preventive perspective. The national preparatory process leading to the review could have a significant preventive impact if conducted inclusively through the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, including, *inter alia*, various government institutions, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, development actors, financial institutions and peacebuilders and if all of them were more explicitly attuned to prevention. Consultations should be expanded as broadly as possible and include all relevant State institutions, including parliaments, since many recommendations require legislative changes. It was suggested that OHCHR support capacity-building activities conducted for this purpose.

29. The consultations showed that for the universal periodic review process to have a concrete preventive impact, more informed, precise and results-based recommendations were indispensable. The proliferation and dispersed nature of recommendations in outcome reports do not promote the adoption of a systematic approach to prevention. In order to enhance the preventive potential of the universal periodic review, States also need to adhere to this approach and take steps accordingly. This includes the clustering and prioritization of recommendations, during the review and when developing national implementation plans. The country matrices produced by OHCHR, which list recommendations adopted during the previous cycle, clustered by theme, in order to facilitate the assessment of their level of implementation, are a welcome initiative. States should be encouraged to use these matrices, and to give due consideration to the letters containing priority recommendations sent by the High Commissioner after each review.

30. An assessment of the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations adopted during previous cycles should be prioritized. Human rights indicators could be used to this end. Mid-term reports are a key tool to conduct this assessment, even though only 73 States have produced such reports so far. At midway between two cycles, OHCHR regional and country presences should also systematically engage in discussions with the States concerned on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations. The setting up of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up should also be encouraged, as long as it is done in consultation with all actors, including all branches of government and civil society organizations.

F. Investigative bodies

31. Investigative bodies can take various forms, from fact-finding missions to groups of experts, high-level missions or commissions of inquiry. When establishing such mechanisms, the Council should consider the preventive impact that they could have and reflect it in their mandates. So far, only the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan has such a prevention component in its mandate. As they are usually created after a human rights emergency or a conflict has occurred, investigative bodies are not always seen as mechanisms that are preventive in nature. Yet, they can contribute to the non-recurrence of violations, through the deterrent effect of the international attention, the collection and archiving of information on human rights violations, the identification of alleged perpetrators, and their recommendations on accountability and transitional justice, including reparation processes for victims. Some States also highlighted that the media work of investigative mechanisms can also play a preventive function, insofar as it raises perpetrators' awareness about the consequences of their acts.

32. Some States expressed reservations about the utility of investigative bodies created without consensus or the consent of the State concerned. Other States, however, underscored the role that investigative bodies played in avoiding the recurrence of violations, even in the case of non-cooperation by the country concerned. When the latter cooperates, it is important that the investigative body build relationships of trust with representatives of the State, both in Geneva and on the ground.

33. Investigative bodies should also look at the root causes of violations to better understand situations and propose measures to ensure non-recurrence. Their reports should have a stronger forward-looking approach by including a risk-factor analysis and formulating short, medium and long-term recommendations identifying measures to address risks and grievances according to their urgency. Investigative bodies should liaise more systematically with special procedures and other mechanisms to ensure that their recommendations are taken up and implementation monitored.

34. The consultations highlighted the difficulty in ensuring follow-up to the recommendations of investigative bodies, due to the discontinuation of mandates and teams working in these bodies. There is a need for greater institutionalization of the secretariats of investigative bodies, so that there is no time lag owing to lengthy recruitment procedures or when mandates are extended.

IV. How can the Council work more effectively with the other pillars of the United Nations system and other actors, and better mobilize funds?

35. During the mission conducted in New York in June 2019 and the intersessional seminar organized in October 2019 in Geneva, the rapporteurs examined how the Council could work more effectively with the other pillars of the United Nations system and other actors, as well as how to better mobilize resources for the prevention of human rights violations. The following developments reflect the views expressed by States, United Nations entities and civil society organizations during those consultations.

A. Linkages with the peace and security pillar

36. The nexus between the work of the Council and the United Nations peace and security pillar in preventing human rights violations and emergencies can be found, at a conceptual level, in the twin resolutions on sustaining peace adopted, in 2016, by the Security Council and the General Assembly.⁴ In its resolution 38/18, the Human Rights Council refers to these resolutions, which emphasized the need to promote a comprehensive approach to sustaining peace, particularly through respect for, and protection of, human rights and fundamental freedoms.⁵

37. This comprehensive approach should be translated at the institutional level into developing closer relationships between the Human Rights Council and the United Nations peace and security entities. In this regard, the President of the Human Rights Council, as well as mechanisms, including special procedure mandate holders and members of investigative bodies, should be invited to brief the Security Council on specific thematic or country situations. If this is not possible formally, it could be done informally, in accordance with previous practice, through Arria-formula meetings or at the invitation of members of the Security Council. The letter sent by the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures to members of the Security Council, sharing country and thematic issues

⁴ Security Council resolution 2282 (2016) and General Assembly resolution 70/262.

⁵ The resolutions also encourage Member States participating in the universal periodic review process to consider the human rights dimensions of peacebuilding. In January 2018, the Secretary-General issued a report on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, in which he stated that the collective work of the United Nations system to advance human rights should help to identify the root causes of and responses to conflict. In that respect, it would remain imperative for the peace and security and development pillars to make better use of the existing human rights mechanisms (A/72/707-S/2018/43, para. 21).

deemed pertinent to the work of the Council, is also a welcome initiative that could be replicated by other mechanisms.

38. Cooperation between the Human Rights Council and the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and for Children and Armed Conflict, all reporting to the Security Council, should be strengthened by inviting the special advisers more regularly to sessions of the Human Rights Council or requesting them, through specific resolutions, to report to the Human Rights Council on their work. Exchanges of information and joint activities between the special advisers and special procedure mandate holders could also be further developed. The joint study by the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide published in March 2018 constitutes a positive precedent (see A/HRC/37/65). The fact that the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi used, in its last report (see A/HRC/42/49), the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes developed by the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect should also be highlighted.

39. Working relationships between Human Rights Council mechanisms and United Nations regional political presences should be more systematic so that the senior representatives of these presences integrate the analyses and recommendations of these mechanisms in their regular briefings to the Security Council.

40. Avenues for cooperation with the United Nations peacebuilding architecture also need to be strengthened. While there are examples of some Human Rights Council mechanisms, including special procedures, collaborating with the Peacebuilding Support Office, there is currently no general established working relationship between the Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. States should be encouraged to share with the Peacebuilding Commission good experiences and practices on the interlinkages between sustaining peace and human rights. The Council could also invite the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission to give a briefing on the Commission's activities. Peacebuilding country configurations⁶ should also be made more aware of the work of the Council and its various mechanisms. OHCHR and the relevant special procedures should approach them for this purpose.

41. The adoption of a joint workplan between OHCHR and the Peacebuilding Support Office covering the period 2019–2021 is a welcome step as it foresees, inter alia, the exploration of ways for the Peacebuilding Support Office to provide inputs more systematically for the universal periodic review. Similarly, the Peacebuilding Support Office's collaboration with special rapporteurs could be enhanced. The Peacebuilding Support Office and OHCHR could work jointly on the development of a comprehensive framework linking peacebuilding activities to the prevention of human rights violations, which could then serve as a guiding framework for the incorporation of human rights issues into peacebuilding priority plans.

42. The Secretary-General's prevention platform, building on the Human Rights Up Front initiative, also offers an avenue for greater integration of human rights in United Nations peace and security activities. OHCHR should ensure that the analyses and recommendations of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms are channelled towards the mechanisms set up in the framework of the prevention platform. Human Rights Council resolution 40/29 inviting the Secretary-General to present, at its forty-third session, a report on the findings of the review commissioned on the operations of the United Nations in Myanmar constitutes a good opportunity for the Council to discuss the implementation of the Human Rights Up Front initiative.

B. Linkages with the development pillar

43. In its resolution 38/18, the Council explicitly referred to General Assembly resolution 70/1, in which the latter recognized the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies that were based on respect for human rights. This overall goal clearly connects the

⁶ On Burundi, the Central African Republic, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the fulfilment of human rights. In practice, 92 per cent of the 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals are linked to specific provisions of international human rights treaties.⁷ The nexus between human rights and the 2030 Agenda was reiterated in the political declaration adopted by the Heads of State and Government at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit held in September 2019 in New York (A/HLPF/2019/L.1, para. 7), along with the centrality of the “leaving no one behind” commitment, which is closely linked to human rights principles (ibid., para. 27 (a)).

44. In April 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 37/24 on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in which it underscored the contribution of international human rights mechanisms, including the special procedures of the Council and the universal periodic review, in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In this resolution, the Council decided to organize two intersessional meetings, which took place on 16 January 2019 and 3 December 2019 respectively. The rapporteurs are in agreement with the conclusions of these meetings (see A/HRC/40/34), notably that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals should increasingly be integrated in the universal periodic review process and the work of special procedures. To this end, these mechanisms should integrate more systematically the Sustainable Development Goals into their analyses and recommendations. The fact that the Universal Human Rights Index now links the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms with the Sustainable Development Goals is a welcome initiative.⁸

45. Efforts must also be made to bridge the gap between the human rights community in Geneva and the development community in New York (A/HRC/40/34, para. 99). The invitation issued to the High Commissioner to deliver a speech during the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development is welcome. A similar space for dialogue on the contribution of human rights to the 2030 Agenda should be secured in the upcoming meetings of the forum.

46. The interaction between the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council should go beyond the invitation made to the President of the latter to report annually on the outcomes of the high-level political forum at the Human Rights Council.⁹ The possibility of inviting the President of the Human Rights Council to brief the Economic and Social Council on the Sustainable Development Goals-related activities undertaken by Human Rights Council mechanisms should also be explored. Moreover, as suggested in the conclusions of the January 2019 intersessional meeting, a joint meeting of the Human Rights Council and the Economic and Social Council should be convened to explore complementarity between the universal periodic review and the voluntary national review mechanisms (A/HRC/40/34, para. 99). Voluntary national reviews constitute opportunities to assess the steps taken by States to implement the recommendations of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. Similarly, the outcomes of voluntary national reviews should be included in the universal periodic review process in order to assess the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this respect, initiatives taken to support Governments to unify the reporting systems on human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, such as the regional workshop on the universal periodic review and Goal 16 and related goals of the Sustainable Development Goals, held in Cabo Verde in November 2018, should be replicated.

47. The reform of the United Nations development system also constitutes an opportunity for greater engagement of the Council’s mechanisms with United Nations country teams and greater integration of their recommendations in United Nations common analyses and programming at the national level. With their strengthened role, resident coordinators are now, more than ever, critical interlocutors for special procedures before, during and after country visits. Resident coordinators should be systematically invited by the Council to discuss specific country situations. OHCHR has a pivotal role to play in summarizing, prioritizing and clustering the recommendations of the Council’s mechanisms, so that they are more accessible to United Nations country teams and better integrated in

⁷ Online database of the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

⁸ See <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en/Goals/SDGS>.

⁹ Human Rights Council resolution 37/25, para. 4.

the United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks. A good example of this is the compilation made by the OHCHR country office in Tunisia.

C. Collaboration with other actors

1. Collaboration with treaty bodies

48. Treaty bodies, through the concluding observations they adopt following interactive dialogues with States, contribute to upstream prevention by making recommendations on the institutional, legislative and societal changes needed to build more just and cohesive societies. They help also in identifying trends in and patterns of violations, thereby functioning as early warning mechanisms. The consultations highlighted the need to develop more cooperation between the Council's mechanisms and treaty bodies. Treaty body chairs present annual reports to the General Assembly. The Council could enhance dialogue with the treaty bodies by inviting their chairs or other members to address the Council on specific country situations or themes. The Council could also consider inviting, on a more regular basis, treaty bodies to contribute to thematic studies, prepared either by OHCHR or the Advisory Committee. Building on existing practices, consultations between special procedures and treaty bodies could be strengthened. States should also use the universal periodic review process to recommend, more systematically, improvements in the timely submission of reports to the treaty bodies and implementation of treaty body recommendations or views adopted under the individual communications procedure.

2. Collaboration with regional organizations

49. Paragraph 5 (h) of General Assembly resolution 60/251 requires the Council to work in close cooperation with regional organizations. On this basis, the Council has adopted, since 2007, a series of resolutions on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,¹⁰ which mandated OHCHR to organize workshops to share information and identify proposals on how to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional arrangements in the field of human rights.¹¹ This has led to progress. The adoption, in 2012 in Addis Ababa, of a roadmap for increased cooperation between the special procedures and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights could be replicated in other regions. Such joint initiatives, if supported by sufficient resources to implement them, could enable more joint activities between United Nations mandate holders and the independent experts of other organizations, such as joint visits and statements, which so far have only happened on an ad hoc basis. The inclusion of independent experts from regional mechanisms in investigative bodies, as in the fact-finding mechanisms on Burundi, could also be replicated.

50. The letter sent in 2008 by the High Commissioner inviting regional organizations to submit information to the universal periodic review, in addition to the communications sent by OHCHR to regional organizations before every universal periodic review cycle, has led to increased regular inputs by regional organizations. However, it is unclear what follow-up, if any, regional organizations give to universal periodic review recommendations.

51. In order to further develop cooperation between the Council and regional organizations specifically in the field of prevention, the Council could mandate OHCHR to organize a workshop and draft a report on this topic. An important area of joint endeavour may be the preventive potential of implementing, in a coordinated manner, the Sustainable Development Goals.

3. Collaboration with national human rights institutions and civil society organizations

52. The critical role played by national human rights institutions that comply with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles)¹² and civil society organizations in preventing human rights violations has been underscored in several reports presented to the Council (in

¹⁰ See Human Rights Council resolutions 6/20, 12/15, 18/14, 24/19, 30/03 and 34/17.

¹¹ Six workshops have taken place so far.

¹² As of 4 March 2019, there are 78 institutions accredited with A status.

particular, A/HRC/18/24, A/HRC/30/20 and A/HRC/39/24). It is therefore important to stress the need to improve accessibility to the Council for both entities and make sure that they are consulted when country situations and general themes are discussed. OHCHR has a pivotal role to play in organizing awareness-raising activities for civil society organizations, especially in countries in which access to communication tools is limited. Training activities on writing reports and communications are also very important. Civil society organizations and human rights defenders that cooperate with the Council's mechanisms should be protected from reprisals. They should be made aware and encouraged to report reprisals to OHCHR¹³ so that their cases are reflected in the Secretary-General's annual reports to the Council on intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations in the field of human rights.¹⁴ Those reports should also be communicated to the General Assembly for more visibility.

D. Mobilization of financial resources

53. In its resolution 38/18, the Council requests that due consideration be given to the availability in the United Nations system of financial resources for human rights promotion, and for prevention, in particular. A review of the recommendations of the Council's mechanisms reveals that many of them are related to the mandates of the various United Nations entities. Such recommendations should therefore be considered at the inter-agency level, with a view to better coordinate actions and have greater access to dedicated funding across the United Nations system. Such consideration could begin at the field level.

54. In addition, there is a need for the allocation of increased resources for coordination of prevention efforts, including through recourse to the trust funds operated by various United Nations bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Fund. The latter constitutes an instrument for greater integration of the recommendations of the Council's mechanisms in peacebuilding strategies. Following the Secretary-General's call for a "quantum leap" (A/72/707-S/2018/43, para. 47), the Peacebuilding Fund has engaged in a review of its strategy for 2020–2022 and is willing to engage further on human rights matters. Currently, the Fund is focusing on at least seven areas of work in which the expertise and recommendations of the Council's mechanisms are of particular use.¹⁵ The Fund requires its recipients to provide them with conflict analyses and needs assessments as the basis for any project proposal. OHCHR should make sure that the views and recommendations of the Council's mechanisms are taken into account in such country documents.

55. In addition, there is a need to enhance the OHCHR voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review, as well as the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. United Nations bodies could also advise States on the possibilities of securing funding from sources outside the United Nations, including bilateral sources.

V. Main conclusions

A. Need for prevention strategies

56. The various Council mechanisms are generally perceived as contributing by their very nature to the prevention of human rights violations. Although examples of the preventive impact of these mechanisms were acknowledged during the consultations, discussions also highlighted the lack of an explicit prevention strategy

¹³ In 2016, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights was designated to lead United Nations efforts to end intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the United Nations on human rights.

¹⁴ Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2.

¹⁵ Support for the drafting of constitutional frameworks; strengthening of capacity of and access to law enforcement officers; support for transitional justice mechanisms; support for human rights education and training, especially of security forces; support for monitoring and protection of human rights; support for the protection of victims; and support for national reconciliation and dialogue processes.

for the work of the Council and its various components. Yet, there is a great difference between an approach in which prevention is a by-product of one's work and one in which prevention is explicitly adopted as a strategic aim. The Council should include a prevention component in the mandates of the new mechanisms it establishes to ensure that they systematically integrate prevention in their work. It could also request the Advisory Committee to carry out a review of the terms of reference of existing mechanisms, especially special procedures, to ensure that prevention is explicitly included in their mandates.

57. Adopting a preventive approach would require that the Council's mechanisms rethink the way in which they operate and reflect on the preventive impact they have had in the past in order to assess which actions to replicate and what should be improved. The Council's mechanisms should adopt a longer term approach to prevention. However, the consultations have shown that prevention is mainly envisaged as an institutional response to emerging crises. A shift to a longer term approach to prevention would entail the development of incremental strategies adapted to each context, with set objectives and more tailored, results-based and time-bound advice and recommendations. This would enable the Council's mechanisms to play a greater role in designing prevention programmes in national contexts.

58. It is also critical that the Council's mechanisms avoid working in isolation from other United Nations entities and mechanisms. To address this challenge, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence advocated for the adoption of a framework approach to prevention, which would contribute to breaking the existing silos of knowledge and expertise and enable upstream prevention with a longer term perspective. A framework approach to prevention would help design strategies and guide decision-making. The framework would include all elements for which there is empirical evidence of a preventive potential, including judicial and constitutional reforms, reform of the security sector, measures to create economic opportunities, as well as initiatives in the domain of culture and personal dispositions (see A/HRC/30/42, A/70/438 and A/72/523).

B. Need for enhanced implementation of human rights recommendations

59. It was generally acknowledged that the implementation of accepted recommendations from the universal periodic review, and recommendations from special procedures and human rights treaty bodies contribute to the prevention of human rights violations. However, a large number of these recommendations have not been implemented. One main reason given for this situation is the sheer number of recommendations, and States' limited technical capacity and resources to implement them. States should ensure that provision is made in their budgets to implement the recommendations of the Council's mechanisms. In addition, while the responsibility to implement human rights recommendations must be State-owned, the international community, and specifically the Council, should support States in their implementation efforts and their quest to prevent human rights violations. States have sought support from OHCHR, and whenever possible such support has been provided and has proven vital. The resources available to OHCHR for technical cooperation and capacity-building, however, have been insufficient to match the need. Funding is also available from a number of bilateral and multilateral sources, and support should be given to States on ways to access such resources. Furthermore, there is scope for more North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation between States, to enable mutual learning through the sharing of experiences.

60. A number of initiatives have been taken in recent years in order to enhance the capacity of States to implement recommendations. This has included an initiative to assist States in the establishment of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up that go beyond the existing national reporting and follow-up mechanisms and include a focus on the implementation of recommendations. Another initiative, led by Norway and Singapore, proposes a voluntary platform for dialogue and cooperation on human rights capacity-building and technical cooperation, under agenda item 10 of the Council's sessions. Such a platform will provide a space for States to report on the progress achieved in implementing recommendations, provide

information on shortfalls or barriers to further progress, and request international capacity-building and technical assistance to help them overcome such barriers. It will also provide a space for recipients of international support for human rights capacity-building and technical assistance to report back regularly to their international partners and give them an opportunity to document good practices.

61. The creation of a mechanism combining all the existing efforts and initiatives to enhance the implementation of human rights recommendations would be invaluable. It is therefore recommended that the Council set up a human rights recommendations implementation facility,¹⁶ to be administered by OHCHR. States could seek support to assess their specific needs and to identify possible partners to help them meet those needs, including through the development and delivery of assistance and support for capacity-building. Training materials, case studies, and information on good practices would be made available. In addition, assistance to States would be provided to facilitate access to assistance from regional and multilateral agencies, bilateral donors and other stakeholders offering various programmes, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring a comprehensive and holistic approach to the implementation of human rights recommendations. In addition, the facility would advocate with States for increased funding for the funds administered by OHCHR, to be made available to States that cannot meet their human rights obligations through other means. Furthermore, the facility would use the proposed voluntary platform for dialogue and cooperation on human rights capacity-building and technical cooperation to enhance dialogue and cooperation for the implementation of human rights recommendations under agenda item 10. The facility would operate under the guidance of a governance structure, consisting of an advisory committee composed of one member from each region. Such a committee would draw up application procedures for assistance by the facility, develop detailed criteria for assistance and screen all requests.

C. Need for enhanced early warning/action capacities

62. In assessing the preventive role of the Council and its mechanisms, due regard should be given to their capacity to respond promptly to human rights emergencies, in line with General Assembly resolution 60/251. Such capacity first requires sufficient information through early warnings about emerging situations of concern. In addition, the type of situations that should trigger early warnings needs further definition. Within the Council, there have been proposals for a range of criteria, including calls to action by the Secretary-General, OHCHR or special procedures; whether a State facilitates or obstructs the access of humanitarian actors, human rights defenders and the media; and whether a State cooperates with treaty bodies and the Council. While these are useful signals, the first requirement ought to be the existence of a pattern, rather than isolated instances, of human rights violations. Furthermore, violations must be of a serious or grave nature. Thus, spikes in enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings or emerging patterns of torture and ill-treatment should trigger attention. The targeting by State or non-State actors of human rights defenders, journalists or civil society organizations, who are often the main transmitters of information about human rights emergencies, is also of particular concern as this may also lead to information about any deterioration in the situation not reaching the international community.

63. The Council's mechanisms have an early warning potential. The High Commissioner also has a critical role to play in bringing early signs of human rights emergencies to the attention of the Council. She does so through statements delivered at the start of each Council session, as well as under agenda item 2. Nevertheless, the early warning capacity of her Office should be strengthened through the setting up of a roster of human rights experts available for deployment at short notice, notably to investigate human rights violations, and through increased capacity to receive and thoroughly analyse early warning signs emanating from all sources, including from special procedures, national human rights institutions, civil society, human rights

¹⁶ This could be modelled along the lines of the Trade Facilitation Agreement Facility of the World Trade Organization.

defenders, United Nations country teams and OHCHR presences in the field. The outcome of these analyses should then be sent by the High Commissioner to the President of the Council or presented during the regular sessions of the Council. The opportunity for the High Commissioner to brief the Council could be enhanced by giving her a mandate to report at each session of the Council on early warning situations. Such reporting could be done in the form of a regional horizon scanning, focusing on risk factors and emerging crises.

64. While the Council is privy to early warning information, there has been relatively little discussion about developing its early action capacity. The type of early action to be taken should be decided on a case-by-case basis, depending on the specific country or regional context. One option could be a confidential meeting with the country concerned and/or, should the latter accept it, a good offices mission to conduct quiet diplomacy.¹⁷ The composition of the good offices mission should be decided on a case-by-case basis and could include the President and members of the Council, special procedure mandate holders, OHCHR and representatives of regional/subregional organizations.

65. In the event of a deterioration in the situation after a quiet diplomacy mission, the options currently available for action by the Council include a presidential statement (requiring the agreement of all member States), a request to OHCHR to prepare a report, a call for a special session, or the creation of an investigative body. These last two options have only been implemented in the past after a situation had deteriorated significantly. An additional option would be to address the situation of concern by referring stakeholders to the human rights implementation facility detailed above.

D. Need for upstream prevention through sustaining peace and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

66. The consultations showed that the Council could enhance its preventive impact through more systematic synergies with efforts to sustain peace and implement the Sustainable Development Goals. Both these approaches embody upstream prevention through a strengthening of institutions that can safeguard human rights, address the root causes of human rights violations, such as social exclusion and the violation of social and economic rights, and foster reconciliation to prevent the recurrence of conflicts that can undermine human rights gains. Therefore, the Council and its mechanisms should systematically seek to tailor the results of their work towards sustaining peace and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and feed it into the work of peace and development actors elsewhere in the United Nations.

67. Moreover, the sustaining peace and Sustainable Development Goals agendas constitute bridges between the United Nations human rights and the peace and security pillars, on the one hand, and the human rights and the development pillars, on the other. During consultations, a series of measures or initiatives were identified that could help ensure a closer working relationship between the Council and the two other pillars of the United Nations. Regarding the linkage with the peace and security pillar, it is critical that the Council continue to seek a closer working relationship with the Security Council, including through more systematic invitations to Human Rights Council mechanisms to participate in the deliberations of the Security Council. The Human Rights Council should systematize and strengthen its working relationship with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and for Children and Armed Conflict by inviting them more regularly to its sessions and/or requesting them, through specific resolutions, to report to it on their areas of work and activities or conduct joint activities, including joint reporting, with its

¹⁷ In 1988, the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights conducted, along with five members of the Commission appointed following regional consultations, a mission to Cuba at the invitation of the Government in order to observe the human rights situation (Report E/CN.4/1989/46 of 21 February 1989 and Corr.1).

special procedures. The Council should identify more systematically reports that should be shared officially, through the Secretary-General, with the Security Council and/or the Peacebuilding Commission. The latter, as well as its different country configurations, should be encouraged to invite the Council's mechanisms to participate in their deliberations. The senior representatives of United Nations regional presences should also be encouraged to include inputs from the Council's mechanisms, obtained by OHCHR or United Nations country teams, in their reports to the Security Council. The Council should also invite them to intervene, in person or through video links, in country-specific discussions.

68. In order to ensure a closer working relationship with the United Nations development pillar, inputs from United Nations country teams should be included in the reports compiled by OHCHR for the universal periodic review. Resident coordinators should be invited more systematically to intervene, in person or through video links, in country-specific discussions at the Council. Similarly, the Council should extend an invitation to the President of the Economic and Social Council to address it each year on the outcomes of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. At the national level, the Council should also encourage the setting up of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, with the participation of United Nations country teams. The Council should advocate for the systematic inclusion of human rights advisers in United Nations country teams to promote the cooperation of country teams with the Council's mechanisms and to ensure that the recommendations made by the latter, as well as other human rights concerns, are integrated into United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks. In cases in which in-country human rights advisers are not available, the Council should encourage resident coordinators to seek advice from OHCHR.

VI. Recommendations

69. The Council and all its mechanisms should give explicit attention to prevention in their work, through:

(a) The inclusion of a prevention mandate when establishing new mechanisms;

(b) A request to all mandate holders to adopt a preventive approach and develop a strategy to ensure that their work provides an optimal contribution to prevention efforts at the national level, and to include this strategy in their next report to the Council;

(c) A request to the Advisory Committee to review the terms of reference of existing mechanisms, especially special procedures, to ensure that prevention is explicitly included in their mandates.

70. The Council should improve its capacity to contribute through dialogue and cooperation towards the prevention of human rights violations¹⁸ by setting up a human rights recommendations implementation facility. The facility should be administered by OHCHR and operate under the guidance of a committee composed of representatives of five States – one from each region.

71. The Council should improve its capacity to respond promptly to human rights emergencies¹⁹ and to this end:

(a) Publicize widely the existence of the complaints procedure and provide the means for members of its working groups to conduct country visits, as well as hold hearings with victims and representatives of the States concerned;

(b) Call upon OHCHR to reinforce its rapid response capacity through:

(i) The setting up of a roster of human rights experts available for deployment at short notice;

¹⁸ General Assembly resolution 60/251, para. 5 (f).

¹⁹ Ibid.

- (ii) **Strengthened capacity to receive and thoroughly analyse early warning signals emanating from all sources, and provide the results of these analyses to the High Commissioner for onward transmission to the President of the Council.**

72. **Upon receipt of the results of these analyses, the President of the Council, in consultation with the Bureau, should determine the course of action to be taken, including confidential Council sessions, preventive diplomacy or good offices missions to the State concerned. The composition of the good offices missions should be determined on a case-by-case basis and could include members of the Council, special procedure mandate holders, OHCHR and representatives of regional/subregional organizations.**

73. **In the event that diplomatic efforts fail to yield the desired outcomes, the Council should convene a special session to determine a further course of action to be taken by the Council.**

74. **The Council should also give a mandate to the High Commissioner to report on early warning situations during each of its sessions. Such reporting should be done in the form of a regional horizon scanning, focusing on risk factors and emerging crises.**

75. **In order to ensure a closer working relationship with the peace and security pillar, the Council should:**

- (a) **Seek more systematic invitations for its mechanisms to participate in the deliberations of the Security Council;**

- (b) **Systematize and strengthen its working relationships with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and for Children and Armed Conflict by inviting them more regularly to its sessions and/or requesting them to report to it on their areas of work and activities, or conduct joint activities, including joint reporting, with special procedures;**

- (c) **Identify reports that should be shared officially, through the Secretary-General, with the Security Council and/or the Peacebuilding Commission;**

- (d) **Encourage the Peacebuilding Commission and its different country configurations to invite the Council's mechanisms to participate in their deliberations;**

- (e) **Encourage the senior representatives of United Nations regional presences to include inputs from the Council's mechanisms, obtained through OHCHR or United Nations country teams, in their reports to the Security Council, and invite them to intervene, in person or through video links, in country-specific discussions at the Council.**

76. **In order to ensure a closer working relationship with the United Nations development pillar, the Council should:**

- (a) **Include systematically inputs from United Nations country teams in the reports compiled by OHCHR for the universal periodic review;**

- (b) **Invite more systematically United Nations resident coordinators to intervene, in person or through video links, in country-specific discussions at the Council;**

- (c) **Extend an invitation to the President of the Economic and Social Council to address it each year on the outcomes of the high-level political forum;**

- (d) **Encourage the setting up of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, with the participation of United Nations country teams;**

- (e) **Advocate for the systematic inclusion of human rights advisers in United Nations country teams to promote cooperation of such teams with the Council's mechanisms and to ensure that the recommendations made by the latter, and other human rights concerns, are integrated into United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks;**

(f) Encourage resident coordinators, in cases in which in-country human rights advisers are not available, to seek advice from OHCHR.

77. The Council should pursue ways for closer cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, and to this end:

(a) Commission, in the framework of the resolutions on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights, a workshop and a report on ways to further cooperation with regional organizations in the field of prevention;

(b) Empower its President to hold discussions with regional and subregional human rights institutions and work out concrete modalities for cooperation, including on the implementation of the recommendations of the Council's mechanisms and the Sustainable Development Goals.
