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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Seventh session
Agenda item 10

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Egypt (on behalf of the Group of African States): draft resolution

7/... Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the relevant human rights instruments,

Recalling all the previous resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights, the last of which was resolution 2005/83 of 21 April 2005,

Welcoming the commitment and efforts undertaken by the African Union to support Somali-led efforts towards reconciliation and stability and the efforts made by international and regional stakeholders to help Somalia re-establish stability, peace and security in its national territory,

Welcoming also the Declaration on the situation in Somalia, adopted by the Heads of State and Government of the African Union during the tenth ordinary session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa from 31 January to 2 February 2008,

Reiterating that humanitarian, human rights and development assistance is of paramount importance to alleviate poverty and to promote a more peaceful, equitable and democratic society in Somalia,

Welcoming the steps taken within Somalia, including the convening of the National Reconciliation Congress, in July and August 2007, the recent appointment of a new Prime Minister, Nur Hassan Hussein, and the subsequent formation of a new Government, as well as the efforts made by the African Union, notably through the deployment of the African Union Mission in Somalia,

Reiterating that, despite the daunting challenges confronting the peace and reconciliation process, the opportunity that arose in December 2006, when the Transitional Federal Government regained control of Mogadishu and other parts of the country in order to find a lasting solution to the crisis in Somalia, still exists,

Stressing the need for both the Somali stakeholders and the international community as a whole to seize this opportunity to address decisively the conflict in Somalia and to take all steps required to this end,

Seriously concerned about the human rights and humanitarian situation in Somalia,

Noting with concern that the security situation remains fragile throughout the country,

Emphasizing that efforts to combat terrorism in Somalia must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are inseparable from the establishment of peace in Somalia,

Bearing in mind paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the United Nations Human Rights Council and 5/2 on the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-holders of the Human Rights Council, of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate-holder shall discharge his/her duties in accordance with those resolutions and the annexes thereto,

1. *Expresses its serious concern* at the human rights and humanitarian situation in Somalia, and calls for an immediate end to all ongoing violations;
2. *Demands* that all parties in Somalia reject and stop all acts of violence, abstain from engaging in hostilities, prevent any act likely to increase tension and security and fully respect their obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law;
3. *Urges* all parties in Somalia to uphold the principles and spirit enshrined in the Transitional Federal Charter and to work towards genuine national reconciliation within that framework, including by holding fair, national multiparty elections in 2009, as envisaged by the Charter;
4. *Calls upon* the international community to stand by the legitimate Somali institutions and to provide adequate and concrete support in order to enhance their capacity, including that of the Transitional Federal Government and its security and defence forces;
5. *Appeals* to the partners of the African Union to provide increased logistical and financial support for the African Union Mission in Somalia, especially in view of the fact that the African Union, in deploying an operation in Somalia, is also acting on behalf of the international community at large;
6. *Stresses* the need for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia that will take over from the African Union Mission in Somalia and support the long-term stabilization and post-conflict reconstruction of Somalia;
7. *Urges* the international community to provide, as a matter of urgency, development assistance to Somalia, so as to effectively contribute to the reconstruction of Somalia and the rebuilding of its institutions;
8. *Also urges* the international community to provide humanitarian assistance to the needy population and to ensure that all necessary steps are taken to create conditions conducive to the provision of humanitarian assistance, including unhindered access to the needy population and security for humanitarian workers and organizations;

9. *Acknowledges* the work undertaken by the independent expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, including his report to the present session;¹

10. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the independent expert for a period of one year, with a view to maximizing the provision and the flow of technical assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights, and requests him/her to submit a report to the Council before the end of 2008;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the independent expert with all necessary human, technical and financial assistance in carrying out his/her mandate;

12. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen its presence in Somalia with a view to providing technical assistance and advisory services to the relevant Somali institutions;

13. *Invites* relevant United Nations bodies and agencies to provide support and technical assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights.

¹ A/HRC/7/26.