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HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
Eighth session
Agenda item 3

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS, CIVIL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

**Albania*, Andorra*, Argentina*, Austria*, Belgium*, Bolivia, Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria*, Burkina Faso*, Chile*, Costa Rica*,
Croatia*, Cuba, Cyprus*, Czech Republic*, Denmark*, Estonia*, Finland*,
France, Germany, Greece*, Guatemala, Haiti*, Honduras*, Ireland*, Italy,
Lithuania*, Luxembourg*, Malta*, Mexico, Montenegro*, Mozambique*,
Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway*, Panama*, Peru, Poland*, Portugal*,
Romania, Serbia*, Slovakia*, Slovenia, Spain*, Turkey*, Uruguay:
draft resolution**

8/... Human rights and extreme poverty

The Human Rights Council,

Recalling that, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international covenants on human rights recognize that the ideal of free human beings enjoying freedom from fear and want can be achieved only if conditions are created whereby everyone may enjoy his or her economic, social and cultural rights, as well as his or her civil and political rights,

* Non-member State of the Human Rights Council.

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

Recalling its resolutions 5/1 on institution-building of the Human Rights Council and 5/2 on a code of conduct for special procedures mandate-holders of the Council of 18 June 2007, and stressing that the mandate-holder shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with these resolutions and the annexes thereto,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by Heads of State and Government on the occasion of the Millennium Summit, and their commitment to eradicate extreme poverty and to halve, by 2015, the proportion of the world's people who live in extreme poverty,

Recalling further the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Recalling that, in its resolution adopted in December 2007, the General Assembly proclaimed the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017),

Bearing in mind the resolutions of the General Assembly on human rights and extreme poverty and the importance they attach to giving persons living in extreme poverty the wherewithal to organize and participate in all aspects of political, economic and social life,

Recalling all other previous resolutions on the issue of human rights and extreme poverty adopted by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights, as well as its own relevant resolutions, including Council resolutions 2/2 and 7/27,

Expressing concern that, after the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006), and midway to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals target date, while there has been progress in reducing poverty in some regions, this progress has been uneven and that the number of people living in poverty in some countries continues to increase, with women and children constituting the majority of the most affected groups, especially in the least developed countries and in particular in sub-Saharan Africa,

Deeply concerned that extreme poverty persists in all countries of the world, regardless of their economic, social and cultural situation, and that its extent and manifestations are particularly severe in developing countries,

Underlining the priority and urgency given by the Heads of State and Government to the eradication of poverty, as expressed in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Reaffirming that the fight against extreme poverty must remain a high priority for the international community,

Stressing the need to better understand the causes and consequences of extreme poverty,

Stressing also that respect for all human rights, which are universal, indivisible and interdependent and interrelated, is of crucial importance for all policies and programmes to fight extreme poverty, at the local and national levels,

Expressing its gratitude to the former independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty for the important work accomplished in the discharge of his mandate, and conscious of the necessity to continue this work,

1. *Acknowledges* the report of the independent expert on extreme poverty (A/HRC/7/15), and in particular the proposed definition of extreme poverty as the combination of income poverty, human development poverty and social exclusion;

2. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the independent expert on extreme poverty for a period of three years, in order to, inter alia:

(a) Further examine the relationship between extreme poverty and impediments to the enjoyment of human rights, and in particular the factors that perpetuate extreme poverty, including institutional impediments to its eradication;

(b) Identify, including in cooperation with international financial organizations, the most efficient measures taken at the national, regional and international levels to promote the full enjoyment of human rights of persons living in extreme poverty;

(c) Study the various possible modalities of the contribution that people living in extreme poverty can make to the definition of measures to promote the full enjoyment of their human rights;

(d) Develop cooperation with other United Nations bodies dealing with human rights and that are also active in the area of the fight against extreme poverty;

(e) Participate in the assessment of the implementation of the Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, the internationally agreed goals contained in the Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus (A/CONF.198/11, chap. I, resolution 1, annex), adopted by the International Conference on Financing for Development, in March 2002, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(f) Work on the impact of discrimination on extreme poverty, bearing in mind the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in September 2001 by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance;

(g) Pay particular attention to the situation and empowerment of women in extreme poverty, applying a gender perspective in his or her work;

(h) Pay particular attention to children living in extreme poverty, as well as to the most vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities who live in extreme poverty;

(i) Submit proposals that could contribute to the realization of Millennium Development Goals, and in particular of goal 1, which consists in the halving by 2015 the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, taking into account the role of international assistance and cooperation in reinforcing national actions to reduce extreme poverty;

(j) Continue participating in and contributing to relevant international conferences and events with the aim of promoting the reduction of extreme poverty;

3. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to give high priority to the question of the relationship between extreme poverty and human rights and invites it to pursue further work in this area, integrating and cooperating fully with the

independent expert in the various activities, notably the Social Forum and the consultation on the draft guiding principles on extreme poverty, and to provide all necessary human and financial resources for the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the independent expert;

4. *Requests* the independent expert to submit an annual report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly and the Council, in accordance with their programme of work;

5. *Calls upon* all Governments to cooperate with and assist the independent expert in his or her task, to supply all necessary information requested by him or her and to give serious consideration to responding favourably to the requests of the independent expert to visit their countries, to enable him or her to fulfil his or her mandate effectively;

6. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, treaty bodies and civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, to cooperate fully with the independent expert in the fulfilment of his or her mandate;

7. *Decides* to continue its consideration of the question of human rights and extreme poverty, in accordance with its programme of work.
