

S-10/1 The impact of the global economic and financial crises on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the principles and objectives of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that peace and security, development and human rights are the interrelated pillars of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that they must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 60/251, which affirms that the Human Rights Council shall be responsible for promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind; should serve inter alia as a forum for dialogue on thematic issues on all human rights and that the promotion and protection of human rights should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue and aimed at strengthening the capacity of member States to comply with their human rights obligations for the benefit of all human beings,

Recalling further that General Assembly resolution 60/251 affirms that the work of the Council shall be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation with a view to enhancing the promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development,

Recalling that everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, as reflected in article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Committed to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, as they contribute to the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including its provision that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well being of himself and his family, including food, and recalling the Universal Declaration on the Eradication of Hunger and Malnutrition and the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the first Millennium Development Goal of eradication of hunger and extreme poverty by 2015,

Recalling that the existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by all, its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community,

Cognizant that, as a result of globalization, domestic economies are now interwoven, and that good governance at the national and international levels, as well as fair, effective, transparent and accountable financial, monetary and trading systems, are essential prerequisites for attaining sustainable development and for the elimination of poverty,

Expressing serious concern at the negative impacts of the global economic and financial crises on economic and social development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights in all countries, and recognizing that developing countries, particularly least developed countries and small island developing States, are in a more vulnerable situation when facing these impacts,

Regretting that the global economic and financial crises have resulted in the decline of exports, foreign direct investment, and remittances which are essential factors contributing to the growth of economies of developing countries, and have led to difficulties in foreign indebtedness and in the realization of all human rights, including the right to development,

Reaffirming that the State has a responsibility to ensure that an increase in unemployment does not exacerbate the potential for discrimination, in particular against migrants and other vulnerable groups,

Recognizing that the economic and financial crises are global in scope and require global concerted solutions, developed in partnership by the international community with a view to preventing and alleviating any of their impacts on the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

1. *Expresses* deep concern that the universal realization and effective enjoyment of human rights are challenged due to multiple and interrelated global economic and financial crises;
2. *Recognizes* the severe impacts that the global economic and financial crises are having on the ability of countries, particularly developing countries, to mobilize resources for development and to address the impact of these crises, and, in this context, calls upon all States and the international community to alleviate, in an inclusive and development oriented manner, any negative impacts of these crises on the realization and the effective enjoyment of all human rights;
3. *Underlines* the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system to strengthen and broaden the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;
4. *Expresses* grave concern that these crises threaten to further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals including the

Millennium Development Goals and calls upon all States to refrain from reducing international financial resources for development, including official development assistance and from imposing protectionist measures, and to maintain their commitments to mobilize and sustain financial resources for development, in accordance with the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development, and to make concerted and sustained efforts to contribute to an early recovery;

5. *Calls upon* States to note that the global economic and financial crises do not diminish the responsibility of national authorities and the international community in the realization of human rights and calls upon them to assist, in particular, the most vulnerable in this regard, and in this context urges the international community to support national efforts to, inter alia, establish and preserve social safety nets for the protection of the most vulnerable segments of their societies;

6. *Calls on* States to ensure that those at risk of being most affected by the global economic and financial crises are protected in a non-discriminatory way;

7. *Reaffirms* that an open, equitable, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting all countries, particularly developing countries, and thereby contributing to the universal realization and effective enjoyment of all human rights;

8. *Recognizes* the central role of the United Nations in the international system and *welcomes* the decision by the General Assembly to hold a high-level conference on the world economic and financial crises and its impacts on development due to take place from 1 to 4 June 2009; and in this context, recommends that an invitation be addressed by the General Assembly to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to participate in this high-level event and to present a report with suggested recommendations, building on the deliberations of this special session, so as to mainstream a human rights perspective in the analysis of the global economic and financial crises;

9. *Invites* relevant thematic Special Procedures, within their respective mandates, building on the deliberations of this special session, to consider any of the impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization and effective enjoyment of all human rights particularly economic, social and cultural rights, and to integrate their findings in this regard in their regular reports presented to the Human Rights Council, with special attention to non-discrimination and to ways and means to ensure respect for and protection of the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, particularly women, children, migrants, migrant workers and their families, indigenous peoples, and people living in poverty, and on the elimination of acts of racism and xenophobia and promoting greater harmony and tolerance in all societies;

10. *Invites* the treaty bodies, within their respective mandates, to consider any of the impacts of the global economic and financial crises on the realization and effective enjoyment of all human rights, and to consider presenting recommendations thereon;

11. *Calls upon* all States to continue their financial contributions to international organizations, particularly to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

12. *Decides* to remain seized of the implementation of the present resolution.

*3rd meeting
23 February 2009*

Resolution adopted by a recorded vote of 31 in favour, 0 against, with 14 abstentions; see chapter II. The voting was as follows:

In favour: Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Uruguay;

Abstaining: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.