



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 71 (b)

**Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms**

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2023

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/78/481/Add.2, para. 139)*]

### 78/235. Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolution 55/105 of 4 December 2000 concerning regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling also* its resolutions 55/34 B of 20 November 2000 and 55/233 of 23 December 2000, section III of its resolution 55/234 of 23 December 2000, and its resolutions 56/253 of 24 December 2001 and 75/254 A to C of 31 December 2020,

*Recalling further* its resolutions 58/176 of 22 December 2003, 59/183 of 20 December 2004, 60/151 of 16 December 2005, 61/158 of 19 December 2006, 62/221 of 22 December 2007, 63/177 of 18 December 2008, 64/165 of 18 December 2009, 66/162 of 19 December 2011, 68/174 of 18 December 2013, 70/167 of 17 December 2015, 72/187 of 19 December 2017, 74/162 of 18 December 2019 and 76/171 of 16 December 2021 on the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa,

*Recalling* that the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that more resources be made available for the strengthening of regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.



*Recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,<sup>2</sup>*

*Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,<sup>3</sup>*

*Noting the holding of the fifty-second, fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in Libreville from 22 to 26 November 2021, in Yaoundé from 30 May to 4 June 2022, in Kintélé, Congo, from 12 to 16 January 2023, and in São Tomé from 15 to 19 May 2023,*

*Noting also the operationalization of a far-reaching organizational change initiative in the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with a view to better integrating work at Headquarters and in the field,<sup>4</sup>*

*Noting further the security and humanitarian situation in the subregion, and in particular the challenges created by indiscriminate attacks and massive abuses of human rights by terrorist groups, including Boko Haram, against the civilian population in many countries of the Central African subregion and in the Lake Chad basin countries,*

*Noting that the effective presence of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the countries covered and continued dialogue with the authorities have generated an increased number of requests for assistance from States,*

*Mindful of the vastness and diversity of the needs in the field of human rights within the subregion, and taking into account the need for sufficient funding for the Centre to fully realize its significant function and crucial role in the subregion,*

*Noting with concern the negative effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the liquidity crisis of the Secretariat on the capacity of the Centre to deliver on some of its mandate,*

*Emphasizing the importance of sustainable development towards the enjoyment of all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, and stressing the importance of strengthening the work of the Centre in the area of economic, social and cultural rights,*

1. *Welcomes the activities of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa at Yaoundé;*

2. *Notes with satisfaction the support provided to the Centre by the host country;*

3. *Also notes with satisfaction the increasing activities of the Centre and the improved cooperation between the Centre and the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, and in this regard encourages the Centre, in delivering and reporting its activities, to give equal consideration to all of the countries covered and to all human rights, including civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural rights;*

4. *Encourages the Centre to take into account the requested activities, needs and demands of the countries of the subregion in the implementation of the strategic*

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<sup>2</sup> Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 36, addendum (A/56/36/Add.1).

<sup>3</sup> A/78/298.

<sup>4</sup> See Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventieth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/70/36), chap. III.

thematic priorities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

5. *Notes with satisfaction* the engagement of the Centre in the area of human rights in development and in the economic sphere, through advocacy and the provision of guidance to States, private sector companies and businesses in the subregion, with a view to strengthening commitments to protect and/or respect human rights, and encourages the Centre to increase its support in this field;

6. *Requests* the Centre to enhance its work, within its mandate, in order to effectively assist all countries in Central Africa in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights and addressing inequalities, bearing in mind that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;

7. *Encourages* the Centre to continue to strengthen its cooperation and invest in relations with subregional organizations and bodies, including the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States, the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the United Nations country teams, as well as with the peacekeeping missions of the subregion;

8. *Encourages* the Regional Representative and Director of the Centre to continue to hold regular briefings for the ambassadors of Central African States based in Geneva and Yaoundé, as well as in countries of the subregion during visits of the Regional Representative, with the aim of exchanging information on the activities of the Centre and charting its direction;

9. *Notes* the efforts of the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly<sup>5</sup> in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

10. *Also notes* the Secretary-General's appeal to Member States in his report A/78/298 to increase the regular budget allocations to the Centre, in particular in terms of human resources and funding for technical cooperation activities to assist the Centre in contributing to bolstering national human rights protection systems and to advancing progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals<sup>6</sup> in Central Africa;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen the capacity of the Centre, including through human resources from within the subregion, and to enhance support for the Centre so as to enable it to achieve greater results on the ground in terms of strengthening national human rights systems and moving more rapidly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Africa;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including data on the evolution of the human and financial resources of the Centre since its establishment.

50th (resumed) plenary meeting  
22 December 2023

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<sup>5</sup> Resolutions 61/158, 62/221, 63/177, 64/165, 72/187 and 74/162.

<sup>6</sup> See resolution 70/1.