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Agenda item 74 (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 16 December 2021

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/76/462/Add.2, para. 114)*]

76/171. 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 and 74/162 of 18 December 2019 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,¹

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



Recalling also the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,²

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,³

Noting the holding of the forty-fifth, forty-sixth, forty-seventh, forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first ministerial meetings of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, in Kigali from 4 to 8 December 2017, in Brazzaville from 29 May to 1 June 2018, in N'Djamena from 3 to 7 December 2018, in Kinshasa from 27 to 31 May 2019, in Luanda from 25 to 29 November 2019, in Malabo, from 2 to 4 December 2020 and in Bujumbura, Burundi, from 24 to 28 May 2021,

Recalling the launch 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,⁴

Noting 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 also 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 of 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,

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 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*

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

³ A/76/253.

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

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. *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;

7. *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;

8. *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 Assembly⁵ in order to provide sufficient funds and human resources for the missions of the Centre;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide additional funds and human resources to the Centre, within existing resources, in particular human resources from within the subregion and national staff at all levels, so as to enable the Centre to achieve greater results in terms of strengthening national human rights systems and moving more rapidly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals⁶ in Central Africa;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021

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

⁶ See resolution 70/1.