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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Albania^{*}, Australia^{*}, Austria, Botswana, Bulgaria^{*}, Chile, Colombia^{*}, Costa Rica, Croatia^{*}, Denmark^{*}, Estonia^{*}, Georgia^{*}, Hungary, Honduras^{*}, Iceland^{*}, Ireland^{*}, Israel^{*}, Italy, Latvia^{*}, Lithuania^{*}, Luxembourg^{*}, Montenegro^{*}, Netherlands^{*}, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal^{*}, Republic of Korea^{*}, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis^{*}, Slovakia^{*}, Slovenia^{*}, Somalia^{*}, South Africa^{*}, Spain, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Ukraine^{*} : draft resolution

19/... The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement of all peoples and all nations, and also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 7/11 of 27 March 2008 and all other resolutions relating to the role of the good governance in the promotion of human rights, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Welcoming the resolve of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption to fight corruption, in line with the commitment made in the 2005 World Summit Outcome¹ to make it a priority at all levels, and also welcoming the provisions of the Convention that have led to the development of a mechanism among States parties to review their progress on combating corruption,

Noting the ongoing work by several important initiatives towards the deepening of good governance practices at the national, regional and international levels,

^{*} Non-Member State of the Human Rights Council.

¹ General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Recognizing the importance of a conducive environment, at both the national and international levels, for the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and of the mutually reinforcing relationship between good governance and human rights,

Recognizing also that transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, including women and members of vulnerable and marginalized groups, is the foundation on which good governance rests, and that such a foundation is an indispensable condition for the full realization of human rights, including the right to development,

Stressing that good governance at the national and international levels is essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger, as reflected in the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

Stressing also in the above context that free trade, trade liberalization, market access, infrastructural development, transfer of technology and capacity-building are key factors contributing to economic development, sustainable development and poverty eradication, and stressing further in this regard the imperative need for the international community, through international cooperation and effective partnerships, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015,

Recognizing the increasing awareness in the international community of the detrimental impact of widespread corruption on human rights, through both the weakening of institutions and the erosion of public trust in government, as well as through the impairment of the ability of Governments to fulfil their human rights obligations, particularly the economic and social rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized,

Realizing that the fight against corruption at all levels plays an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights and in the process of creating an environment conducive to their full enjoyment,

Recognizing that effective anti-corruption measures and the protection of human rights, including through strengthening transparency in government, are mutually reinforcing and that the promotion and protection of human rights is essential to the fulfilment of all aspects of an anti-corruption strategy,

Stressing the importance of policy coherence and coordination in intergovernmental processes in the area of the promotion and protection of human rights, on the one hand, and of anti-corruption, on the other,

Stressing also the importance of developing and implementing national legislation on the promotion of access to information, as well as on the promotion of the administration of justice to strengthen transparency, accountability and good governance at the national level, and as applicable to the public sector, the private sector and social partners,

Reaffirming the right of every citizen to have access, in general terms of equality, to public service in his/her country, as enshrined in article 21 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 25 (c) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,

Recognizing that a professional, accountable and transparent public service upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity is an essential component of good governance,

Recognizing also that the knowledge, awareness and attitude of public servants as well as the promotion of a human rights culture within the public service play a vital role in the respect for and implementation of human rights in society,

1. *Welcomes* the growing trend towards the universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and encourages States that have not yet ratified this important international instrument of ethical conduct, integrity and accountability to consider doing so;

2. *Underlines* the fact that the primary responsibility for ensuring that professional public services uphold the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, predicated on good governance practices, including impartiality, rule of law, transparency and accountability, lies with the State at the national level, consistent with its international obligations, constitutional provisions and other enabling legislation;

3. *Invites* the Secretary-General to ensure the upholding of the integrity and relevance of the United Nations system in the service of humanity by, inter alia, the promotion of system-wide coherence in the policies and operational activities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes at the country level, while ensuring that these are complementary to national objectives and priorities;

4. *Invites* States Members of the United Nations, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations to provide the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights with information on good practices and their views regarding the organization, training and education of the public service in the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights, including with regard to impartiality, accountability and transparency and the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, as well as activities developed to assist and support the public service at the country level in this regard;

5. *Requests* the High Commissioner, in consultation with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, to prepare and present to the Human Rights Council, at its twenty-fourth session, a comprehensive report outlining the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance, including a compilation of best practices based on information received from the above-mentioned stakeholders.
