Human Rights Council

Nineteenth session
Agenda item 3
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 relevant to the role of 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 and the commitment made by all States in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document to make the fight against corruption a priority at all levels, and also welcoming noting with interest the provisions of the Convention that have led to the development of a mechanism among States Parties to the Convention 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,

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, open 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 one of the indispensable conditions 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 this context, reaffirming the 2000 Millennium Declaration, the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, and the outcome of the 2010 High-Level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals,

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 all 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 also that effective anti-corruption measures and the protection of human rights, including through strengthening transparency and accountability 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,

Noting with interest the outcome of the third and fourth sessions of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Doha, Qatar, in 2009, and in Marrakech, Morocco, in 2011,

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 initiatives, 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 and strengthening 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 all levels,

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 one of the essential components of good governance,

Recognizing also that the knowledge, training and 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 promoting 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 done so to consider ratifying 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 lies with States at the national level, including through their Constitutional provisions and other enabling legislation, consistent with their international obligations, to ensure professional public services upholding the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and predicated on good governance principles, including impartiality, rule of law, transparency and accountability, lie with combating corruption, and stresses the importance of human rights training and education in this regard;

3. Invites the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure the upholding of the integrity and relevance of the United Nations system in its service of humanity by, inter alia, the promotion of system-wide coherence in the policies and operational activities, and improved coordination between United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, with a view to ensuring that the United Nations system continues to improve the quality of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes—its work at the country level, while ensuring that these are complementary to national—all levels, including in support of objectives and priorities at the national level;

4. Invites States Members of the United Nations, all States, United Nations agencies, programmes and funds, as well as 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 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 other activities developed to assist and support the public service at the country level in this regard, national, regional and international levels;

5. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare, in consultation with relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, a comprehensive report outlining the role of the public service as an essential component of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, including a compilation of best good practices based on information received from the above-mentioned stakeholders.