Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2021

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

76/162. Human rights and cultural diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,¹ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights² and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³ as well as other pertinent human rights instruments,


Noting that numerous instruments within the United Nations system promote cultural diversity, as well as the conservation and development of culture, in particular the Declaration of the Principles of International Culture Cooperation proclaimed on 4 November 1966 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its fourteenth session,⁴

¹ Resolution 217 A (III).
² See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
³ Ibid.
Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,\(^5\)

Recalling that, as stated in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, contained in the annex to its resolution 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, States have the duty to cooperate with one another, irrespective of the differences in their political, economic and social systems, in the various spheres of international relations, in the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination and all forms of religious intolerance,

Recalling also the adoption, by its resolution 56/6 of 9 November 2001, of the Global Agenda for Dialogue among Civilizations,

Recalling further the contribution of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, held in Durban, South Africa, from 31 August to 8 September 2001, the Durban Review Conference, held in Geneva from 20 to 24 April 2009, and the high-level meetings of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth and twentieth anniversaries of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action,\(^6\) held on 22 September 2011 and 2021, respectively, to the promotion of respect for cultural diversity,

Recalling the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,\(^7\) together with its Action Plan,\(^8\) adopted on 2 November 2001 by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-first session, in which member States invited the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned to cooperate with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and its Action Plan, with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity,

Recalling also the Ministerial Meeting on Human Rights and Cultural Diversity of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Tehran on 3 and 4 September 2007,

Reaffirming that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, and that, while the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic and cultural systems, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Expressing concern over the adverse impacts of lack of respect for and recognition of cultural diversity on human rights, justice, friendship and the fundamental right to development,

Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are a source of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

\(^5\) A/76/244.
\(^6\) See A/CONF.189/12 and A/CONF.189/12/Corr.1, chap. I.
\(^8\) Ibid., annex II.
Recognizing also the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the
development and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Taking into account that a culture of peace actively fosters non-violence and
respect for human rights and strengthens solidarity among peoples and nations and
dialogue between cultures, and in that regard recalling its resolutions 75/25 of
2 December 2020, 75/26 of 2 December 2020, 75/200 of 21 December 2020, 75/258
of 21 January 2021 and 75/309 of 21 July 2021,

Reaffirming that discriminatory treatment against different cultures and
religions is detrimental to the principle of the equality of human beings,

Recognizing that all cultures and civilizations share a common set of universal
values,

Recognizing also that the promotion of the rights of indigenous people and their
cultures and traditions will contribute to the respect for and observance of cultural
diversity among all peoples and nations,

Considering that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic
diversities, as well as dialogue among and within civilizations, is essential for peace,
understanding and friendship among individuals and people of different cultures and
nations of the world, while manifestations of cultural prejudice, intolerance and
xenophobia towards different cultures and religions generate hatred, violence and
extremism among peoples and nations throughout the world,

Recognizing in each culture a dignity and value that deserve recognition, respect
and preservation, and convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity, and in the
reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the
common heritage belonging to all humankind,

Convinced that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance towards and
dialogue among various cultures and civilizations would contribute to the efforts of
all peoples and nations to enrich their cultures and traditions by engaging in a
mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and intellectual, moral and material
achievements,

Acknowledging the diversity of the world, recognizing that all cultures and
civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, acknowledging the
importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity
throughout the world, and, in order to promote international peace and security,
committing itself to advancing human welfare, freedom and progress everywhere, as
well as to encouraging tolerance, respect, dialogue and cooperation among different
cultures, civilizations and peoples,

1. **Affirms** the importance for all peoples and nations to hold, develop and
preserve their cultural heritage and traditions in a national and international
atmosphere of peace, tolerance and mutual respect;

2. **Emphasizes** the important contribution of culture to development and the
achievement of national development objectives and internationally agreed
development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals;

3. **Recalls** that, as expressed in the Universal Declaration on Cultural
Diversity, no one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights
guaranteed by international law, or to limit their scope;

4. **Also recalls** the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development,9 in which Member States acknowledged the natural and cultural

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9 Resolution 70/1.
diversity of the world and recognized that all cultures and civilizations can contribute to, and are crucial enablers of, sustainable development;

5. Recognizes the importance given to cultural diversity in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including in Sustainable Development Goal 4, related to ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all;

6. Also recognizes the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

7. Affirms that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that ensures respect for the cultural diversity of all;

8. Expresses its determination to prevent and mitigate cultural homogenization in the context of globalization, through increased intercultural exchange guided by the promotion and protection of cultural diversity;

9. Affirms that intercultural dialogue essentially enriches the common understanding of human rights and that the benefits to be derived from the encouragement and development of international contacts and cooperation in the cultural fields are important;

10. Recalls the recognition at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the necessity of respecting and maximizing the benefits of diversity within and among all nations in working together to build a harmonious and productive future by putting into practice and promoting values and principles such as justice, equality and non-discrimination, democracy, fairness and friendship, tolerance and respect within and among communities and nations, in particular through public information and educational programmes to raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of cultural diversity, including programmes in which the public authorities work in partnership with international and non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society;

11. Emphasizes that dialogue among religions, cultures and civilizations on the basis of equal dignity should be enhanced, through supporting efforts made at the international level towards reducing confrontation, suppressing xenophobia and promoting respect for diversity, and in that regard also emphasizes that States should oppose all attempts at uniculturalism or the imposition of particular models of social or cultural systems and promote dialogue among civilizations, a culture of peace, tolerance and interfaith dialogue, which will contribute towards peace, security and development;

12. Welcomes the activities of the Non-Aligned Movement Centre for Human Rights and Cultural Diversity in Tehran, and acknowledges the important role that the Centre plays in the promotion of the universality of all human rights, as well as their realization;

13. Recognizes that respect for cultural diversity and the cultural rights of all enhances cultural pluralism, contributing to a wider exchange of knowledge and understanding of cultural background, advancing the application and enjoyment of universally accepted human rights throughout the world and fostering stable, friendly relations among peoples and nations worldwide;

14. Emphasizes that the promotion of cultural pluralism and tolerance at the national, regional and international levels is important for enhancing respect for cultural rights and cultural diversity;
15. Also emphasizes that tolerance and respect for diversity facilitate the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including gender equality and the enjoyment of all human rights by all, and underlines the fact that tolerance and respect for cultural diversity and the universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive;

16. Urges all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;

17. Calls upon States, relevant international organizations and non-governmental organizations to support and embark on intercultural initiatives on human rights in order to promote all human rights, thereby enriching their universality;

18. Urges States to ensure that their political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity within their societies and, where necessary, to improve democratic institutions so that they are more fully participatory and avoid marginalization and exclusion of, and discrimination against, specific sectors of society;

19. Calls upon States, international organizations and United Nations agencies, and invites civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to recognize and promote respect for cultural diversity for the purpose of advancing the objectives of peace, development and universally accepted human rights;

20. Stresses the necessity of freely using the media and new information and communications technologies to create the conditions for a renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations;

21. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to bear in mind fully the issues raised in the present resolution in the course of its activities for the promotion and protection of human rights;

22. Also requests the Office of the High Commissioner, and invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to support initiatives aimed at promoting intercultural dialogue on human rights;

23. Urges relevant international organizations to conduct studies on how respect for cultural diversity contributes to fostering international solidarity and cooperation among all nations;

24. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity among all peoples and nations in the world and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session;

25. Decides to continue consideration of the question at its seventy-eighth session under the sub-item entitled “Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms” of the item entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights”.

53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021