

**Human Rights Council****Forty-fourth session**

30 June–17 July 2020

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development****Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council  
on 17 July 2020****44/14. Fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from  
genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as  
enshrined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome***The Human Rights Council,**Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,**Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and recalling the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant human rights instruments,**Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome on its fifteenth anniversary, especially paragraphs 138 and 139 thereof on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity,**Stressing that States have the primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind, and reiterating the responsibility of each individual State to protect its population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, which entails the prevention of such crimes, including their incitement, through appropriate and necessary means, and that the international community should, as appropriate, encourage and help States to exercise this responsibility and support the United Nations in establishing an early warning capability,**Noting the annual reports of the Secretary-General on the responsibility to protect and the relevant recommendations contained therein,**Recalling General Assembly resolution 63/308 of 14 September 2009,**Recalling also the mandate of the Human Rights Council, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006,**Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations human rights system to efforts towards addressing situations in which genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity could be committed,*

*Emphasizing* that this anniversary offers a valuable opportunity to raise awareness and to reflect on achievements, best practices and challenges, at the national, regional and international levels, with regard to the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, including the prevention thereof,

1. *Decides* to convene, before its forty-seventh session, an intersessional panel discussion to mark the fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, on the exchange of best practices on strengthening national policies and strategies to implement the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity through national mechanisms and other stakeholders;

2. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with States, relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Responsibility to Protect, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and regional human rights mechanisms, and the Global Network of the Responsibility to Protect Focal Points, as well as with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and national human rights institutions with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion, and to make the panel discussion fully accessible for persons with disabilities;

3. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion and to submit it to the Human Rights Council at its forty-eighth session and to the General Assembly.

*28th meeting  
17 July 2020*

[Adopted by a recorded vote of 32 to 1, with 14 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Czechia, Denmark, Fiji, Germany, Italy, Japan, Libya, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Senegal, Slovakia, Somalia, Spain, Togo, Ukraine and Uruguay

*Against:*

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

*Abstaining:*

Angola, Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, India, Indonesia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Sudan]

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