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Human Rights Council

Eighteenth session

Agenda item 3

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

Bangladesh, Cuba, Egypt*, Malaysia, Morocco*, Pakistan*: draft resolution

18/... Panel on the promotion and protection of multiculturalism as a means of protecting human rights in a multicultural context, including through and combating xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other relevant instruments,

Reaffirming the pledge made by all States under the Charter of the United Nations to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion,

Reaffirming also that, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, in which the Assembly emphasized the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind, as to race, colour, sex, language or religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and acknowledged the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world,

* Non-Member State of the Human Rights Council.

Welcoming the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/2 of 8 September 2000, to take measures to eliminate the increasing acts of racism and xenophobia in many societies and to promote greater harmony and tolerance in all societies, and looking forward to its effective implementation at all levels,

Reaffirming that the landmark importance of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action in the pursuit of the universal promotion and protection of human rights and its continued relevance in responding to contemporary challenges, is strengthened by its evolutionary character, which seeks to respond to contemporary challenges, including the preservation of the multicultural and tolerant ethos of international order and respect for religious and cultural diversity,

Recalling the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions 2005,

~~_____~~ *Bearing in mind* that both the formal and societal rejection of multiculturalism has underpinned the rise in xenophobia, violence and discrimination, as demonstrated by recent events in various parts of the world, Recalling also that cultural diversity, flourishing within a framework of democracy, tolerance, social justice, and mutual respect between peoples and cultures, is indispensable for peace and security at the local, national, and international levels,

Recognising the importance of cultural diversity for the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized instruments,

Recognizing also the contribution that diverse cultures have been making to the development and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Bearing in mind that multiculturalism, solidarity, respect and tolerance can play an important role in the promotion and protection of human rights through combating xenophobia, violence and discrimination,

Bearing in mind also that the promotion and upholding of tolerance, respect, pluralism and diversity is essential for the promotion and protection of human rights in multicultural contexts and, in particular, for combating racism, xenophobia, intolerance, and discrimination,

Recalling the primary responsibility of States for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Recalling also 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, nor to limit their scope,

1. ~~_____~~ Emphasizes that the universal promotion and protection of human rights, including cultural rights, and mutual respect for cultural diversity should reinforce each other; Calls upon all States to acknowledge the existence of national, ethnic, linguistic and religious diversity, and to ensure that the rights of individuals to retain their culture and values should go hand in hand with enjoying full access to, participation in and adherence to constitutional principles and commonly shared values prevailing in society;

2. Stresses the importance of Also calls upon States to adopting policies that ensure non-discrimination and the equal enjoyment of equitable access to civil, cultural, economic, political, and social, political and economic rights, thus reducing pressures for social conflict based on disadvantage and inequality;

3. *Decides* to convene, within existing resources, at its twentieth session, a panel discussion on the promotion ~~and of multiculturalism as a means of protection of~~ human rights in a multicultural context, including through and combating xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance;

4. *Requests* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to liaise with relevant special procedures and treaty bodies, States and other stakeholders, including relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, with a view to ensuring their participation in the panel discussion;

5. *Also requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a report on the outcome of the panel discussion in the form of a summary.
