



43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Item 10 - Technical assistance and capacity-building

GENERAL DEBATE

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A total of **46 states took the floor** during the General Debate on Item 10 of the Council.

All states commended the OHCHR for its work and the **crucial importance of providing technical assistance and capacity building** in order to protect and promote human rights worldwide.

A vast majority of states also emphasized the **negative impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on human rights and the need to re-evaluate technical assistance** in order to respond best to the crisis.

Several states mentioned that **technical assistance and capacity building should only be provided at the state request and that it should not interfere with internal states affairs** (Pakistan on behalf of the OIC; Brazil on behalf of a group of countries; Pakistan; Libya; Sudan; Venezuela; Belarus; Cuba; Egypt; Russia; China; Cambodia)

Some states required that **more technical assistance and capacity building should be provided to developing countries** (Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group; Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement).

Several states raised the following **country situations**:

- **Situation of human rights in Afghanistan** (Croatia on behalf of the European Union; Indonesia; Finland; France; Greece; Iran; United Kingdom; Afghanistan)
- **Territorial integrity of Georgia** (Croatia on behalf of the European Union; Bulgaria; Ukraine; Finland; Estonia; France; Lithuania; Latvia; Greece; Georgia; United Kingdom)
- **Territorial integrity of Ukraine** (Croatia on behalf of the European Union; Ukraine; Georgia; United Kingdom)
- **Situation of human rights in Mali** (Croatia on behalf of the European Union; Canada; France)

Some states mentioned that **the implementation of technical assistance and capacity building by the OHCHR could be improved**:

- Palestine on behalf of the group of Arab states (other human rights mandates can provide additional technical assistance efforts).
- Norway on behalf of Singapore and Norway (urgent need to enhance the efficiency of technical assistance efforts).
- Pakistan (strengthen the right to health in developing countries).
- Uruguay (provide more tools to strengthen institutional structures).
- Philippines (technical assistance and capacity building should be mainstreamed in the work of the Special Procedures).
- Morocco (states should mobilize to provide more funds).
- Russia (offer specific technical assistance during the Covid-19 crisis).

States that took the floor during the General Debate (58 states):

Pakistan (*on behalf of the OIC*), Burkina Faso (*on behalf of the African Group*), Azerbaijan (*on behalf of the NAM*), Croatia (*on behalf of the EU*), Palestine (*on behalf of the group of Arab states*), India, Libya, Venezuela, Indonesia, Sudan, Brazil (*on behalf of the group countries of Latin America*), Ukraine, Afghanistan, Norway (*on behalf of Singapore and Norway*), Sweden, Iraq, Cuba, Tunisia, Russian Federation, Iran, Algeria, Belarus, United Kingdom, Egypt, China, France, Morocco, Greece, Canada, Germany, Uruguay, Bulgaria, Indonesia, Cameroon, Philippines, Finland, Estonia, Costa Rica, Lithuania, Latvia, Thailand, Georgia, Paraguay, Ethiopia, Vanuatu, Cambodia.



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Statements from Civil Society and NGOs:

Situation of human rights in Yemen (Association d'Entraide Medicale Guinée; Zero Pauvre Afrique; Iraqi Development Organization; Human Rights Information and Training Center)

Resolution from China on mutually beneficial cooperation (East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project - joint statement)

Territorial integrity of Western Sahara (American Association of Jurists - on behalf of a group of 200 hundred organization)

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan (Health and Environment Program)