

General debate on Item 10: Technical assistance and capacity-building (7 October 2021)
Presentation of High Commissioner and Secretary-Generals country reports and oral updates
(Cambodia, Georgia, Philippines, Yemen)
followed by General Debate

CONTENTS

Opening Remarks by Ms. Michelle Bachelet, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights:	2
Statements Made by Countries Concerned	3
Member States: Joint Statements	4
Statements made by Member States	7
Statements made by Observers.....	11
Statements made on behalf of National Human Rights Institutions and Civil Society Organizations.....	17

This is a Summary Records report of the General Debate under Item 10 that took place on 7 **October 2021** at the 48th session of the UN Human Rights Council. 16 joint statements were made by the Groups of States, 19 statements were delivered by the Member States in their national capacity, 40 statements were made by the Observers, and 30 statements were delivered by the non-governmental organizations.

The statements provided by the speakers are presented in the order of speaking and are not exhaustive. Please refer to the [recording of the General Debates on the UN WebTV](#) for full statements (7 October 2021) (02:37:30)

OPENING REMARKS BY MS. MICHELLE BACHELET, UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS:

Report of the Secretary-General "Role and achievements of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights" (A/HRC/48/49): provides an overview of the work of OHCHR country office in Cambodia from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021; welcomes the Government's economic recovery policies and social protection programs for vulnerable groups during the COVID-19 crisis; highlights heavy reliance on law enforcement to curb the pandemic. Human rights defenders were routinely harassed and intimidated; trade union activists reported broad restrictions on peaceful assembly. Prominent human rights defender, **Rong Chhun, and two others were convicted** on vaguely worded charges. At least 25 human rights defenders are behind bars. The authorities continued to **reclassify state land and grant it to individuals**; forced evictions take place without remedy and recourse. **The OHCHR is working on draft national guidelines on resettlement** to be proposed to the Government in October.

Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights "Cooperation with Georgia" (A/HRC/48/45): provides an update on key human rights developments from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021. Ms. Bachelet urged effective investigation of violence by homophobic groups in Tbilisi on 5 July; expressed concerns regarding nomination and appointment processes for Supreme Court judges. With respect to **Abkhazia and South Ossetia**: the OHCHR **continues to be refused access**; allegations of discrimination of ethnic Georgians based on ethnic grounds. Ms. Bachelet welcomed the lifting of restrictions at crossing points between Abkhazia region and Tbilisi-controlled territory and urged the same at the South Ossetian Administrative boundary line. Madame High Commissioner welcomed **the release in July of Zaza Gakheladze** in South Ossetia. Cases of allegedly arbitrary deprivations of liberty should be the object of transparent review.

Report of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights "Implementation of technical assistance provided to the National Commission of Inquiry to investigate allegations of violations and abuses committed by all parties to the conflict in Yemen" (A/HRC/48/48): since March 2015, OHCHR has **verified the killing of 8,218 civilians, including 2,270 children, and the injury of 13,283 civilians**. Yemen is the world's worst humanitarian crisis. 4 million people are displaced. The National Commission faces multiple challenges. In mid-September its ninth report was issued, in which abuses of international law were attributed to various parties to the conflict. The National Commission is working to open a new field office in Marib. Welcomed its advocacy for a dedicated court with jurisdiction over conflict-related violations. **One chief priority is the need for the Yemen Government to renew the mandate of the Commission (expired in August)**.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Oral update on the implementation of Resolution 45/33 on the Philippines: the OHCHR works closely with many stakeholders to develop a 3-year UN joint programme on human rights in the Philippines (signed on 22 July). Its key areas: domestic accountability measures; data gathering on police violations; engagement with civil society; reporting to human rights mechanisms; human rights-based approaches to counterterrorism and drug control. The Inter-agency Review Panel on anti-illegal drug operations referred **findings on 52 cases involving 154 police officers for criminal investigation. Killings by alleged vigilantes continue to be reported**. Abuses by the 'New People's Army' were reported. **Pre-Trial Chamber of the ICC unanimously authorized the Prosecutor to proceed with an investigation** of international crimes committed in the Philippines between 01.11.2011 and 16.03.2019 in the context of the 'war on drugs' campaign. Human rights defenders continue to be at high risk of harassment. "Red-tagging" is also concerning phenomenon.

STATEMENTS MADE BY COUNTRIES CONCERNED	
Cambodia	The OHCHR in Cambodia enjoys positive cooperation of the Government. Appreciated technical assistance to the Government and non-governmental institutions. The details of the technical cooperation did not find its way to the report. Cambodia did not rely heavily on the enforcement of criminal law as part of its COVID-19 prevention measures. Defendants have full opportunity been heard and to dispute indictment. The OHCHR underreported the social protection schemes. The adoption of the new Trade Union Law in close consultations with ILO. The OHCHR did not touch upon worrying trend disguised under freedom of expression. The OHCHR turned the blind eye on incitements to discriminate the types and sources of certain types of vaccines. "National Internet Getaway" sub decree has no provisions allegedly authorising the collection of consumers' data and restrictions of freedom of expression. It is a mechanism to increase the national revenue collection on the basis of transparent competition between the State and telecom operators and to continue fighting cybercrimes. The country Rapporteur recognised that the NGO Law is being reformed. Measures were introduced to guarantee land tenure security. The Government is committed to universal registration of the land by 2023. Cambodia is recognised as one of the leaders in the region to register lands of indigenous people. Urged the OHCHR deliver its mandate in conformity with its founding resolution. Remains resolute in upholding the democratic journey with Cambodian characteristics.
Georgia	Pandemic has aggravated human rights and humanitarian situation in the Russia-occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali. Signing the so-called agreement on dual citizenship with the Russian occupation regime in Tskhinvali and the opening polling stations for Russian Duma elections in both occupied regions are Russia's further steps towards the de-facto annexation of Georgia's regions. Recent decision of the Russian occupation regime in Sokhumi to prohibit the Georgian language education for all 11 grades made the education in native Georgian language rooted out in Abkhazia and the same takes place in the Tskhinvali. Three Georgians: <i>Irakli Bebuia, Genadi Bestaev and Gela Gochoshvili</i> remain in illegal custodies of the occupation forces. Continued international involvement is critical for their release. Russia keeps undermining Geneva International Discussion by politicizing issues; and the Gali IPRMs, blocked for more than three years. Consolidated approach of international society is essential to remind Russia of its responsibility. The judgment of the ECHR of 21 January established the fact of Russia's occupation and effective control over Abkhazia and Tskhinvali. Georgia steadily pursues the path of peaceful conflict resolution.
Philippines	President Duterte underlined the Philippines' commitment to engage with the UN and the international community on human rights. The UN Joint Program on Human Rights is a model for constructive engagement. (1) the UN Joint Program (the Government has made an initial contribution of USD 200,000 and appreciates the generosity of partners; it will focus on the National Mechanism for Reporting; the Inter-Agency Committee to investigate human rights violations; strengthening the Witness Protection Program; establishing a national referral pathway for human rights cases; and a human rights-based approach to drug control); (2) updates on the Review Panel/ Police Reforms (its work on cases of deaths in the anti-illegal drugs operations is in full swing); (3) the issue of "Red-tagging" and allegations of reprisals against human rights defenders (the Senate Committee report established the sufficiency of existing legal remedies to protect the supposed aggrieved parties; courts have also rendered relevant decisions and opinions on the matter). Philippines cautioned the Council against groups that have misrepresented the situation under the cover of human rights defenders. Philippines will contribute to harnessing the potential of Agenda Item 10 by restoring and inspiring faith in the power of constructive multilateralism.

Yemen	<p>There is the need to raise the level of support provided by the OHCHR to the National Commission so that it can succeed in its mission. The efforts of the international community have not yet reached the level of eliminating the cause of the catastrophe that befell Yemen. Called on the HRC, the OHCHR and other international organizations to help Yemen understand the cause of the conflict represented in the coup led by the Houthi group against the government on September 21, 2014. The Houthi militias still insisted on continuing the war and increasing the suffering of Yemeni citizens. Continuous attacks with missiles on Yemeni cities target camps for displaced people, schools, hospitals, places of worship. Houthi militias are insisting on not allowing the maintenance of the Safer reservoir. This require the HRC to clearly condemn this war crimes and CAH. The Yemeni government presented to the Special Envoy a number of initiatives to reopen Sana'a International Airport to civilian flights. Houthi militia rejected these offers, also did not abide by Stockholm and Amman agreements, regarding the entry of oil derivatives through the ports of Hodeidah. Intransigence of the Houthi coup militia is the only obstacle preventing a political solution. The HRC and the international community need to take more effective stances towards the Houthi militias. The Yemeni government calls on to discuss its situation under the Agenda Item 10, Yemen needs support, technical assistance, and capacity building.</p>
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MEMBER STATES: JOINT STATEMENTS	
<p>Slovenia on behalf of the <i>European Union</i>¹</p>	<p>The EU is a strong supporter of the work of the OHCHR. Invited States to respond positively to receiving technical assistance.</p> <p>Ethiopia: Regretted the decision of Ethiopia to declare seven senior UN officials persona non grata.</p> <p>Georgia: Welcomed the cooperation of Georgia with the OHCHR. The need to grant OHCHR unimpeded access to Abkhazia and South Ossetia.</p> <p>Cambodia: called for full cooperation with the OHCHR, welcomed the technical assistance. Regretted that the Special Rapporteur was not able to visit the country.</p> <p>Philippines: Welcomed the commitment to engage in technical cooperation under the UN Joint Programme. However, widespread human rights violations persist. Called on the Philippines to ensure investigations and to cooperate with the ICC.</p> <p>Haiti: Despite the encouraging efforts of the Prime Minister to broaden the political consensus, the insecurity in the country is on the rise.</p>
<p>Egypt on behalf of <i>Group of Arab States (Arab Group)</i></p>	<p>Commended the efforts of the OHCHR on the technical assistance and capacity-building, and welcomed the satisfactory results achieved in many countries. Reaffirmed the importance of implementing these programs on a voluntary basis, based on the requirements of the concerned countries, and with full respect for the priorities and specificities of each country, away from politicization or exploitation of this mechanism to serve agendas far from the scope of human rights. Stressed the importance of permanent and constructive dialogue with the concerned countries. Reiterated the call for the establishment of periodic, transparent, and objective evaluation mechanisms for technical assistance and capacity-building programs, to assess their suitability and put adaptation measures in place. Important to provide technical support to Arab countries (Sudan, Somalia, Libya and Yemen). Noted the important work of the UN Technical Cooperation Fund and the Fund for Voluntary Technical Assistance.</p>
<p>Brunei Darussalam on behalf of <i>ASEAN (Association of</i></p>	<p>Technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights should be demand-driven and tailored to the country's needs and priorities. Welcomed the General Debate and the thematic panel discussions under item 10. AICHR is working on mainstreaming human rights in the work of ASEAN, with the support from its Dialogue Partners, UN and other relevant stakeholders. Its recent activities in this field include a Workshop on Human</p>

¹ The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Albania and Liechtenstein aligned themselves with this statement.

Southeast Asian Nations)	Rights, Environment and Climate Change; initiated by AICHR-Indonesia consultations: to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism in ASEAN in June 2021; on Mainstreaming Human Rights in Humanitarian Actions in June 2021; Forum on the Right to Health in June 2021; a three-day Workshop on Community Policing Approach to Prevent Trafficking in Persons in August 2021.
Finland on behalf of Nordic-Baltic countries	Called on all States to fully cooperate with the OHCHR. Philippines: welcomed the commitment to cooperate with the UN. The Philippines must ensure that enforced disappearances and deaths in the campaign against illegal drugs are investigated properly; and take immediate steps to address harassment and killings of human rights defenders, journalists, lawyers, indigenous peoples and others. Encouraged the Philippines to reinstate in-person education, limiting COVID restrictions to the strictly necessary; to engage in genuine dialogue with civil society. The Nordic-Baltic countries are committed to cooperating with the Philippines and look forward to the full implementation of the UN Joint Programme.
Pakistan on behalf of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)	Attached great importance to the HRC's technical mandate. Technical assistance should be provided in consultation with and with the consent of the concerned State. Called for the equitable resource allocation focusing on all basic civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights as well as building necessary firewalls against the distortion caused by voluntary and earmarked contributions. The investments in sustainable development are the first multiplier for protection and promotion of human rights. Need to reorientate the HRC technical cooperation towards addressing structural inequalities. Developing countries disproportionately endure the pandemic. Call on the HRC to utilize its technical assistance to safeguard and advance basic rights, including the right to access to affordable COVID-19 vaccines, provision of health houses, food security and sustainable development.
Bahrain on behalf of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)	Yemen: GCC thanked the High Commissioner for its report under Article 10 and welcomed the ninth report of the Independent Yemeni National Commission. Stressed the importance of the OHCHR intensifying technical support for the latter, rejected politicization of international mechanisms that do not enjoy the approval of the concerned state; peaceful solution is the only way out of the crisis in Yemen; called on the Houthi coup militia to desist from attacking civilians, neighbouring countries, and international sea lanes. Called on everyone to support the Yemeni Independent National Commission. Called the OHCHR for providing more technical assistance and capacity building to countries according to their national priorities and needs and based on their will and desire and without compromising their national sovereignty.
Cameroon on behalf of Group of African States (African Group)	Commended the efforts of the OHCHR in the area of technical assistance and capacity-building. Technical assistance should be provided to countries on a strictly voluntary basis, without politicisation, and taking into account the priorities and specificities of each country. Stressed the vitality of maintaining a constant dialogue; called for the establishment of mechanisms for periodic, transparent and objective evaluation of technical assistance and capacity building programmes in order to assess their relevance and to put in place adjustment measures. Called the OHCHR to draw on good practices in this area. Highlighted the work of the UN Trust Fund for Technical Cooperation and the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund.
Azerbaijan on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)	General Debate under Agenda Item 10 is an essential platform for States to share their views to promote more effective technical cooperation and capacity building, share experiences, challenges and information on assistance needed as well as the recommendations they received in the UPR process. Providing advisory services, technical and financial assistance at the request of States concerned is one of the responsibilities of the High Commissioner and Her Office. Strengthening of the capacity of States is essential in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The HRC and the OHCHR should increase their efforts in providing advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to States upon their request and according to their national needs and priorities, and with an equal focus on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

<p>Gambia on behalf of LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Beneficiaries²</p>	<p>Every country has the right to participate in the work of this Council. With the generous support of the Trust Fund the delegates from 16 LDCs/SIDS were able to participate in the 48th session of HRC. This was the first time most of the states have had the opportunity to witness the workings of this Council, and this experience will be highly useful in their efforts to promote and protect human rights domestically and to increase the countries' effective engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms. In accordance with the HRC Resolution 34/40, urged all nations, particularly the developed countries to support the Trust Fund, to actively work towards ensuring inclusivity and universality in the work of the Council.</p>
<p>Mali on behalf of <i>the delegates from the States, Members and Observers of the International Organization of La Francophonie, beneficiaries of the Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs / SIDS³</i></p>	<p>Recognized the need for international cooperation to ensure the principles of universality, indivisibility, interdependence and non-discrimination of human rights. Welcomed the efforts of the HRC. Noted with satisfaction the availability of summaries of Council meetings in English and French. This good practice must continue. There are challenges which the delegates of the French-speaking countries must face in order to follow the work of the Council in a meaningful way: all the informal consultations were held exclusively in English, and of the 28 draft resolutions presented, only 4 texts were bilingual. This does not allow delegates from the French-speaking countries to fully contribute to the debates. Invited the Council to ensure the availability of documents and draft resolutions in French; provide interpretation during informal consultations preceding the vote on resolutions by the Council.</p>
<p>Cabo Verde on behalf of CPLP - Community of the Portuguese Speaking Countries⁴</p>	<p>Fully supported the Council's mandate for technical assistance and capacity building. Exogenous factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbate existing inequalities and accelerate the deterioration of progress, which are critical to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda. Socio-economic development and human rights are linked and mutually reinforcing. The HRC and the OHCHR should strengthen initiatives aimed at providing advisory services, as well as financial and technical assistance to States, to their demand, and in accordance with their national needs and priorities.</p>
<p>UK on behalf of a Group of Countries</p>	<p>Sudan: Commended the progress in the past years, particularly in regards with women's rights and freedom of religion and belief. Sudan's journey to improve human rights is not over. Delivering its long-term human rights commitments, including for historically marginalised communities, remains vital to the success of Sudan's transition to democracy. Called on all the parties to implement the Constitutional Declaration and Juba Peace Agreement. Condemned any attempts to destabilize or undermine this important process. Called on Sudan to continue cooperating with the OHCHR, to build on the positive gains already made and to establish its National Human Rights Commission with the OHCHR support as soon as possible. Stand ready to support Sudan and its efforts to realize the full enjoyment by the Sudanese people of all human rights.</p>
<p>Zambia on behalf of a group of some African beneficiaries</p>	<p>Recognised the importance of technical assistance and capacity building as a supplementary tool for States for the promotion and protection of human rights. The role of the HRC can be overlooked. Technical cooperation and capacity building must be demand-driven and guided by the principles of sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. Expressed gratitude for the support given by the Trust Fund and thanked the Donor-Countries. Physical participation in the work of the HRC has been a valuable experience, which might not have been possible without assistance from the Trust</p>

² Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, Gambia, Lesotho, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Nepal, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Togo, Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia.

³ Gambia, Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, Mauritius, Togo, Mali

⁴ Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, Timor-Leste

of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund⁵	Fund. It is a clear indication of the impact of humanity and open handedness exhibited by the Donor States. Expressed gratitude to the OHCHR. Reiterated the importance of the Trust Fund and called on Donors to continue their support to achieve universal participation at the HRC, and other States to join their hands to support the Trust Fund.
Pakistan on behalf of the Like-Minded Group of Countries	The HRC's mandate to deliver technical assistance is an indispensable tool, it should remain a state- and demand-driven process. Supporting States and implementing the recommendations accepted during the UPR process provides is an important avenue. Technical assistance creates hierarchy among human rights, serves as a pretext for interference into domestic affairs of sovereign states. Countries have been coursed to accept technical assistance without taking in due consideration the local context. Developing countries continue to be disproportionately affected by impacts of the pandemic. There is a need to address barriers to equitable development, vaccine inequity, debt burdens and illicit financial flows. Called for an effective use of the HRC's technical assistance in support of developing countries' efforts to promote and protect basic rights to live, health, livelihood, and development. HRC should advocate for timely, universal, affordable, and equitable access by everyone to COVID vaccines as public health products.
China on behalf of a group of countries	Cambodia: Welcomed the positive cooperation of Cambodia with the OHCHR. The OHCHR should deliver its mandate in conformity with its founding resolution. The OHCHR should ensure that the relevant NGOs are acting in a good faith and free from politically motivated stance. Noted the information provided by media and civil society in Cambodia and stressed that the exercise of the freedoms should be carried with special duties and responsibilities. Through engendered transformative impact the technical cooperation and the capacity building assistance should strengthen all rights, including economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development, taking into account the national ownership. Technical cooperation must always be demand-driven with the full consent of the State concerned and be aligned with the national priorities and efforts to implement the accepted UPR recommendations. It must neither be used as a tool for advancing political agenda, nor as a pretext for interference in domestic affairs.
STATEMENTS MADE BY MEMBER STATES	
1. Germany	<i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> Urged recipient countries to welcome and cooperate with the assistance provided. Called on the UN Secretary General and Member States to support more in the UN's regular budget to unleash the OHCHR's full preventive potential. Announced a joint contribution by France and Germany of over 1 million USD from their voluntary contribution to the OHCHR in support of the UN Treaty Bodies. Welcomed the OHCHR's engagement in the country. Cambodia: Called on Cambodia to ensure civic and democratic space, to end arbitrary arrests of political opposition actors and human rights defenders. Georgia: Called for the continued implementation of the recommendations particularly regarding the administration of justice. Urged those exercising effective control over Ossetia and Abkhazia to grant unimpeded access for the OHCHR. Philippines: Appreciated efforts undertaken within the UN Joint Program in the Philippines; remained concerned about the human rights situation.
2. France	<i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> Technical cooperation is the crucial component of the UN human rights pillar. The adequate financing of this pillar remains a challenge. Called on the SG to strengthen the budgetary means available to him within the regular budget of the UN in this context. France and Germany will dedicate a proportion of the 2021 voluntary contributions, amounting to 1 million USD, to the strengthening of the Treaty bodies. DRC: Welcomed the cooperation of the DRC with the human rights mechanisms. Cambodia: welcomed the country's cooperation with the OHCHR; concerned by the continued diversion of the democratic space in the country.

⁵ Gambia, Lesotho, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia

	<p>Ukraine: reiterated deep concern at the human rights situation in Crimea. The OHCHR should have safe non-impeded access throughout the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders.</p>
3. Venezuela	<p><i>Associated itself with the statement of the NAM and the Like-minded Group.</i> The promotion and protection of all human rights must be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue. Technical assistance and capacity-building should always be in consultation with and with the consent of the States concerned. International cooperation policies for the development of the peoples of the Global South must prioritize the search for effective solutions to the basic needs of the population. Only through international solidarity, adhering to the universal principles of respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, it is possible to advance towards an effective enforcement of human rights. Politicization, selectivity and double standards in the work of the HRC, promoted by some hegemonic countries, promoting interventionist initiatives to attack the countries of the South. The imposition of illegal UCMs hampers cooperation.</p>
4. Indonesia	<p>Reaffirmed its support towards the work of the OHCHR in providing advisory services, technical assistance, and capacity-building in consultation with, and with the consent of States concerned. Encouraged united action by all States to this end, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation such as bilateral human rights dialogue, North-South, and triangular cooperation. Regretted that Agenda item 10 is used mainly to discuss human rights situation of a particular country.</p> <p>Philippines: As a friendly neighbour, Indonesia continues to support the effort taken by the Philippines on human rights. Acknowledged the constructive cooperation between the Philippines and Iceland on the joint resolution HRC 45/33 adopted in October 2020. Encouraged closer collaboration with the Philippines and all ASEAN member states to continue human rights cooperation in the region.</p>
5. Bahrain	<p><i>Endorsed the statements of the political and regional groups to which it belonged.</i> Commended the importance of technical cooperation and building national capacities as a means of improving human rights conditions in their various political, civil, economic, social and cultural forms, including the right to development. Called to support the countries that fall under this item in a manner consistent with the specific needs of each country and its national priorities, in accordance with their free will and consent and with no harm to their national sovereignty.</p> <p>Yemen: Stressed the importance of continuing the technical support and capacity-building to the National Commission of Inquiry in Yemen.</p> <p>Philippines: the joint program between the Philippines and UN is a model framework in the field of technical cooperation and capacity-building.</p>
6. Cuba	<p>This Council has to promote the provision of technical advice and assistance and capacity-building, in consultation with and with the consent of the Member States concerned. It is the power of any State to terminate cooperation in its territory when it deems it appropriate. Consent is an essential element. Concerned about the use of discussions on this topic to single out countries, particularly developing countries. Why are the assistance programs in the field directed almost exclusively towards the countries of the Global South, if the human rights agenda is universal and the developed countries face serious and growing human rights challenges? Funding for technical assistance should be decoupled from the donors' political agenda.</p> <p>Philippines: Noted the constructive approach of the state. This is an example: where national mechanisms and programs are operating, the Council should discontinue the corresponding mandates and resolutions.</p>
7. Russia	<p>Opposed the politicization of the provision of technical assistance in the field of human rights to countries in need. It should be provided to interested states only at their request and without any conditions. Concerned about the persistent attempts of a certain group of countries to use technical assistance to interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states. Convinced that the decisions of the Council under item 10 of the Agenda should focus exclusively on helping countries to build their capacity in the field of human rights. The attempts of some countries to use item 10 of the Council's agenda to resolve their territorial issues, to consolidate the legal status of certain territories, are categorically unacceptable. The issue of technical assistance and capacity building of states in the field of human rights should remain a central focus in the activities of the HRC.</p>

<p>8. India</p>	<p>Philippines: The Philippines-UN Joint Program is a good example of constructive cooperation. India was one of the co-sponsors of the HRC Resolution 45/33. The Council should give priority to provision of technical assistance and capacity building, in consultation with, and with the consent of, the concerned States; with due respect for principles of non-interference in internal affairs of States and national sovereignty. Recently made the annual voluntary contribution of USD 400,000 to OHCHR's Voluntary Funds, including for technical cooperation and assistance. Indian technical and economic cooperation programme covers over 160 partner countries. It has contributed to South-South cooperation. Since January 2021 more than 66 million doses of quality made-in-India vaccines have been supplied to 95 countries, India will shortly resume the export of this safe and effective vaccines.</p>
<p>9. Nepal</p>	<p>Recognized the importance of technical, advisory, and capacity development related supports; which should be based on States' consent, their needs and priorities. Effectiveness and efficiency of the assistance in strengthening the national institutions and mechanisms should be emphasized. Welcomes the assistance being provided to LDCs and SIDs through Voluntary Trust Fund in the areas of human rights and the UPR; appreciated the countries contributing to the Funds. Nepal is highly committed to achieving 2030 Agenda. Strengthening the capacity of human rights related institutions and mechanisms is a national priority. International support, solidarity and collective actions must be enhanced to ensure the realization of civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights at all levels.</p>
<p>10. China</p>	<p>Human rights technical assistance and capacity building are an important task of the HRC. The Council should continue to increase investment on the basis of the consent of the countries concerned. Technical assistance should follow the following principles: (1) abide by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country concerned, avoid using human rights as a tool for political purposes; (2) adhere to win-win cooperation, respect the will and leadership of the countries concerned, provide constructive assistance and support on the basis of consultation with them; (3) treat all kinds of human rights in a balanced way, with special emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development. Negative impact of the COVID pandemic on the economic and social development and human rights should be reduced.</p>
<p>11. Pakistan</p>	<p>Contributed to the Trust Fund to SIDS and LDCs and to other voluntary funds. Reaffirmed its continued political and financial support for this mandate. Provision of technical assistance after consultations with consent of a concerned State guarantees that such assistance is applicable for local contexts and supplements national efforts to strengthen human rights. The COVID pandemic is a reminder to prioritise and advance socio-economic development. To overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, economic contraction and climate change emergency collective efforts should focus on promoting and protecting basic rights to life, food, livelihood and development. Attention should be paid to the dire situation of developing countries. Called on the UN human rights machinery to continue its advocacy for universal, timely and equitable access to affordable COVID vaccine as a global public good.</p>
<p>12. Sudan</p>	<p>Development and promotion of human rights is the responsibility of states, but the important role of the HRC and the OHCHR in providing technical assistance and capacity building cannot be overlooked. The enhanced interactive dialogue session on the report of the OHCHR on Sudan represented a milestone. Renewed commitment to cooperate with all international mechanisms concerned with human rights, in particular the country office of the OHCHR. Called for the support of the government's efforts in deploying the joint forces, financing reconstruction programs and the return of displaced and internally displaced persons to advance development efforts set by the transitional government.</p> <p>Yemen: Called for the support to the Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry. Called for responding to the request of the Government of Southern Sudan to provide it with technical support and capacity building.</p>
<p>13. Ukraine</p>	<p>Thanked the OHCHR for providing technical assistance at the country level. Ukraine's cooperation with the OHCHR has been elevated since 2014. Some obstacles remain unresolved: absence of the access of the OHCHR monitoring mission to Crimea and Sevastopol, temporarily occupied by Russia.</p> <p>Georgia: Thanked the OHCHR for its update on cooperation with Georgia, which paid specific attention to the lack of access to Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Reaffirmed its support for Georgia's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. The</p>

	situations on occupied Ukrainian and Georgian territories can only be improved through continuous pressure on the occupying power; called on international partners to demand that Russia honoured its obligations under international law.
14. United Kingdom	<p>Technical cooperation plays a vital role in promoting and protecting human rights.</p> <p>Georgia: Concerned by human rights abuses in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.</p> <p>Sudan: Commended action by Sudan to improve its human rights situation: ratification of the Convention Against Torture and cooperation with the ICC. Stands ready to help Sudan.</p> <p>Mali: Urged the transitional authorities to respect human rights and uphold the rule of law during preparation for elections.</p> <p>Algeria: Welcomed provisions in the new constitution aimed at guaranteeing freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief and urged the Government to implement the supporting legislation.</p> <p>Philippines: Supported the UN and Philippines Joint Programme on Human Rights and encourage the Philippines to implement the programme in full.</p>
15. Poland	<p><i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> Technical cooperation plays a vital role in promoting and protecting human rights, Item 10 is a critical element of the Agenda. The human rights situation in Eastern Europe has been always one of Polish geographical priorities during the membership in the Council.</p> <p>Georgia: Commended Georgia's co-operation with OHCHR. Concerned about the persistent human rights challenges in the regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, including restrictions for OHCHR and other human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>Yemen: Concerned with the lack of improvement of the situation. The resolution of the conflict should remain high on HRC's agenda.</p> <p>Cambodia: Will continue to support the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia.</p>
16. Bulgaria	<p><i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i></p> <p>Georgia: Welcomed the country's achievements in many areas. Worried about the negative implications of measures imposed by the de facto authorities in Abkhazia and South Ossetia as well as allegations of discrimination of ethnic Georgians. Reiterated unwavering support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. Supported efforts made within the framework of the Geneva international discussions to improve the human rights situation of all people in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and adjacent areas. Regretted absence of progress in ensuring access of the OHCHR and international and regional human rights mechanisms to Abkhazia and South Ossetia.</p>
17. Mauritania	<p>Commended the efforts of the HRC in providing technical assistance and capacity-building, which must be based on the principle of consent of the State concerned, and its needs and requirements, priorities and specificities of each country, its legislation, and national laws, away from politicization or exploitation. Enhancing coordination of efforts between OHCHR and other UN agencies is important.</p> <p>Yemen: Welcomed the constructive cooperation by the Yemeni Government with the OHCHR and other UN bodies and mechanisms, called upon all UN bodies and States to provide technical support and assistance in capacity-building to the Yemeni government in the field of human rights.</p>
18. Libya	<p>The importance of the Item 10. Achieving the desired progress to promote and respect human rights depends on the will and ability of the national authorities to do so. Providing human and material resources and expertise for technical support programs in the concerned countries should be done in the way so that these countries could develop the capacity of their national institutions.</p> <p>Libya: Expected the High Commissioner to intensify her efforts to provide technical support and capacity-building.</p>
19. Eritrea	<p>Philippines: Acknowledged the country's commitments in protection of human rights of its citizens despite certain challenges. Bilateral initiatives implemented in partnership with the National Human Rights Institution and civil society has emphasised on national accountability mechanisms as best practice that needs to be consolidated. Highlighted the UPR and technical cooperation and capacity building initiatives with the OHCHR that come in accordance with national priorities and ownership. The issue of the resource utilization, effectiveness, and impact, remains fundamental.</p>

STATEMENTS MADE BY OBSERVERS	
1. Egypt	<p>Stressed the importance of technical cooperation and building national capacities being at the request of the state and according to its needs without any efforts to impose specific policies or directions. Attached special importance to constructive cooperation with the OHCHR, especially with regard to the Technical Cooperation Program, and the launch of the National Human Rights Strategy 2021-2026.</p> <p>Yemen: Appreciated the efforts made by the legitimate Yemeni government and the National Commission to investigate allegations of human rights violations; called on the OHCHR to support it by providing the necessary technical assistance.</p> <p>Philippines: Welcomed the efforts made by the Philippines to promote and protect human rights in the country.</p>
2. Sierra Leone	<p><i>Aligned itself with the statement by African Group.</i> Appreciated the efforts of the OHCHR of technical assistance and capacity-building to LDCs and SIDs. Technical cooperation and capacity-building are an integral part of the work of the HRC, thanks to which the developing countries have been able to engage with the HRC mechanisms (recent support Sierra Leone received from the UPR Branch of the OHCHR during our 3rd Cycle UPR). Thanked the UPR Branch, the Trust Fund and the OHCHR for their support and looked forward to advancing multi-stakeholder partnerships.</p>
3. Finland	<p><i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> Supported the OHCHR's cooperation with states and national stakeholders to strengthen the promotion and protection of human rights. Called on all states to support the UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation.</p> <p>Georgia: Supported to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia, non-recognised policy of Abkhazia and South-Ossetia.</p> <p>Sudan: Supported the ongoing transition in Sudan, called on Sudan to enhance accountability for perpetrators; close cooperation with the ICC, the OHCHR and the HRC is essential.</p>
4. Kuwait	<p>Yemen: The issue should remain under Item 10 of the Agenda as it provides the real support to improve the human rights situation in Yemen. Commended the efforts of the National Commission of Inquiry, and the cooperation of the Yemeni government with it.</p> <p>Philippines: Stressed the need for continued cooperation within the joint program between the Philippines and the OHCHR, a distinguished framework of cooperation; looked forward to its circulation within the HRC. Commended the openness and cooperation of the Philippines government with the international community and civil society institutions.</p>
5. Lithuania	<p>Georgia: Appreciated strong cooperation between Georgia and the OHCHR. Called for immediate and unimpeded access for the OHCHR and other international human rights mechanisms to Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, which are under Russia's occupation; stressed the need for monitoring and accountability mechanisms there. Responsibility for the human rights violations lies with the occupying power. Restrictions on the use of Georgian language increase. Discrimination of ethnic Georgians based on ethnic grounds. "Borderisation" and militarization of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali as consequences of illegal occupation require international attention. Reiterated support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders.</p>
6. Switzerland	<p>Philippines: Welcomed the launch of the Joint Program aimed for an innovative collaborative approach between the Philippines and the UN. Called for a strengthening of the judicial system to fight against impunity for human rights violations linked to the "War on Drugs". It is central that law enforcement, government institutions, civil society, drug users are included in a program. The protection of human rights defenders is a priority for Switzerland. <i>What does the Joint Program provide in this area?</i></p>
7. Iraq	<p>Stressed the importance of Item 10 of the Agenda. The provision of technical assistance and capacity-building must be carried out at the request and approval of the state, and according to its national needs and priorities, to preserve the cooperative pattern of the work of this item. The Council and</p>

	its mechanisms should focus more on developing and strengthening national institutions and mechanisms in accordance with countries' desires and priorities; must respect the sovereignty of countries, their legislation and laws, and circumstances and challenges for them, privacy of their societal values, and the difference in their traditions and customs. Technical cooperation and capacity-building should include all human rights in an equitable manner, including the right to development to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. Costa Rica	The international community must strengthen its ability to tackle the pandemic, current tools are not enough. There is a need to rebuild the development model; tackle the inequalities caused by the pandemic. There must be cooperation with countries with serious humanitarian situations. Along with the WHO and 42 other countries Costa Rica is cooperating with the C-TAP initiative . The C-TAP is a human rights-based approach, based on solidarity and cooperation between states. Recognition of the right to a clean safe environment is crucial; focused on the exchange of good practices, multilateralism and cooperation between States to create the necessary synergies in order to protect this right.
9. South Africa	Technical cooperation and capacity-building is an essential component of the work of the HRC and plays an important role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Encouraged constructive cooperation through regional and country offices as it was important for enhancing national and regional capacities. Emphasised the need for technical assistance and capacity building measures to have an equal focus on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights to ensure they translate human rights standards into practice. Supports the value of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Technical Cooperation to support the participation of LDCs/SIDs and encouraged continued contributions to the fund.
10. Morocco	As a member of the core group of the resolution on technical cooperation and capacity building in the field of human rights, reiterated the importance of the General Debate under item 10. Stressed the importance of the priority areas mentioned in the High Commissioner's reports. Encouraged the OHCHR to provide support and technical assistance with regard to the priorities and concerns expressed by the countries concerned. Technical assistance at the regional level remains crucial. Called on the OHCHR to reflect on how emerging challenges may negatively affect the enjoyment of human rights, such as climate change and artificial intelligence.
11. USA	Underlined the direct correlation between strengthening technical assistance and capacity-building and the further promotion and protection of human rights. OHCHR is one of the greatest tools in providing technical assistance and capacity-building. Encouraged countries to implement technical assistance and capacity-building that is inclusive of minority groups and women and girls in all of their diversity. Appreciated OHCHR's efforts to assist with accountability processes and support human rights defenders. OHCHR's efforts to support countries in transition like Sudan are pivotal in advancing legislation to protect human rights and democracy. Valued OHCHR's role in building peace and promoting human rights in countries that span the globe from Colombia to Afghanistan . <i>How can countries utilize their technical assistance and capacity-building resources in inclusive and participatory ways to ensure that the results are sustainable?</i>
12. Estonia	<i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> Georgia: Concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in the occupied regions of Georgia (Abkhazia and South Ossetia). Georgia itself is not able to practice effective control over these regions. According to the ECHR judgment of January 2021 the events occurring after ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008 fall within the jurisdiction of Russia. Regretted the continued lack of access for OHCHR and other international and regional human rights mechanisms to Abkhazia and South Ossetia; called on Russia and the other de facto authorities of the occupied territories to grant immediate and unimpeded access for the international observers and rapporteurs. Concerned that no one has been held accountable for the torture and deaths during the past decade. Lack of accountability contributes to a climate of impunity.
13. Hungary	Acknowledged the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building. Protection of fundamental rights and the implementation of the goals of the 2030 Agenda are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. Without capacity building, there will be no change in mindsets, attitudes and behaviours. Technical assistance and capacity-building should be pursued only in consultation and consent with the States concerned, prioritising the

	implementation of UPR recommendations that the States accepted. Constructive engagement by concerned States reflected in positive developments on the ground (Cambodia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines) justifies that dialogue is the best way forward. Support should take into account the social and cultural realities, reflect national development objectives and be transparent.
14. Latvia	<i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> Georgia: Welcomed the support provided to the Government to further improve the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Worried about the human rights violations in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia, outside of the effective control of Georgia. Reiterated the call on the authorities exercising effective control of both regions to grant immediate, unconditional and unimpeded access to all relevant human rights mechanisms. Expressed the unwavering support to sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.
15. Afghanistan	The takeover of the country by the Taliban has had far-reaching consequences on all aspects on Afghan society including a negative impact on long-standing technical cooperation of the United Nations on the ground in Afghanistan. <i>"We are talking to you today, as people and a country, which are not only entering into a state of crisis, extreme poverty and hopelessness, but also plunging into an era of reversal of rights and liberties"</i> . Since the takeover by the Taliban, the country has been set decades back. There is a backslide of the achievements of the last 20 years in many areas and in access to essential infrastructures. Urged Council members to establish a much-needed human rights monitoring mechanism for Afghanistan.
16. Algeria	Stressed the importance of technical cooperation and capacity-building of states in the field of human rights; this mechanism is only effective if it is developed with the consent of states; with due account to the specifics, reality of each requester, by adopting the path of continuous dialogue, and away from any political use. Called on Member States to avoid conditionalities in their contributions to the OHCHR. Called for including the right to development in the technical and financial assistance programs to developing and least developed countries.
17. Azerbaijan	Technical assistance and capacity building in consultation with and with the consent of the Member State concerned is essential for supporting their actions in promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the recommendations they had accepted in UPR process; they should remain the core activity carried out by the OHCHR and the HRC. Attached importance to the OHCHR's global activities; increased the amount of its voluntary and earmark contribution to the OHCHR 2021 budget. Georgia: Commended Georgia's commitment to uphold human rights, reaffirmed support to sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognised borders.
18. Moldova	Georgia: Commended the engagement of Georgia with the OHCHR, the adoption of the Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the introduction of gender quotas for political parties running for parliamentary elections; the reforms implemented by Georgia. Encouraged Georgia to finalize the National Human Rights Strategy for 2021-2030 in a transparent and participatory manner. Concerned by human rights violations in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Called for immediate access for the OHCHR and international human rights mechanisms to these regions. Reiterated the full support to the sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.
19. Cambodia	<i>Aligned itself with the statements by the groups to which it belongs.</i> Philippines: Welcomed the three-year UN Joint Program for Human Rights between the Philippines and UN in partnership with the NHRI and civil society. The Council should take due consideration of discontinuing mandates or resolutions in accordance with rationalization and efficiency exercise. Technical assistance must be demand-driven with full consent of the states, aligned with the national priorities and efforts to implement the accepted UPR recommendations, to strengthen national institutions and communities, enhance a State's capacity in promoting all rights, including economic,

	social, cultural rights and the right to development. Political intrusion should be avoided. In the face UN liquidity crisis, PBIs should support solid national technical cooperation programs instead of solely funding staff salaries and their travel.
20. Timor-Leste	Poorer nations, conflict and post-conflict countries, SIDSs and countries heavily affected by natural hazards and by the pandemic must receive support from the international community. For them technical assistance and capacity-building remain an essential part of the “build back better” recovery plan. International solidarity with the focus on mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 is of paramount importance. Timor-Leste has identified areas where technical assistance and capacity-building are crucial: 1) investing in human capital, in the education sector, 2) diversifying its economy and reducing poverty, 3) building resilience for climate adversities, 4) promoting gender equality, 5) strengthening democracy based on the rule of law. Urged the OHCHR to provide States with the necessary assistance tailored to their needs.
21. Lesotho	Maintains collaboration with multilateral and bilateral partners, is grateful for the cooperation received (capacity building of officials to participate in the HRC through the LDCs and SIDS Trust Fund); has benefitted from the Fund in 2015, 2019 and in 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic has to be addressed through the cooperation of nations on manufacture and distribution of affordable vaccines, mitigation of the social and economic fallout, and upholding of human rights of all. Urged all states to cooperate on the technical capacity through multilateral and bilateral arrangements.
22. Sri Lanka	Philippines: Commended the progress of the Philippines. Where effective national processes have been put in place, the Council should consider discontinuing mandates and resolutions, channelling of the resources to pressing humanitarian situations. Reiterated that discussions under any Agenda item of the Council must have the consent or be upon the request of the country concerned. Cambodia: stressed that technical cooperation must be consensual, demand-driven and aligned with the national priorities of the country concerned; respect for the sovereignty and domestic jurisdiction of the state. National ownership will reap maximum and sustainable benefits in the long run.
23. South Sudan	<i>Aligned itself with the statement of the African group.</i> Reiterated its commitment to the implementation of the Peace Agreement, supports the rule of law, and guarantees protection and promotion of human rights. Called all UN mandates, HRC members to respect the IB package and resolution 60/251. Called upon the HRC to remember that technical assistance and capacity building is in item 10 and not in item 4. Urged the OHCHR to assist in providing technical assistance in the areas that South Sudan communicated earlier which will require capacity building of its manpower.
24. Suriname⁶	For LDC's/SIDS countries it remains a challenge to participate annually in the Council and the overall work in Geneva, due to not having permanent missions based here. Put great emphasis on Technical Cooperation to participate in these sessions. Appreciated the support given to the LDC's/SIDS Trust Fund; thanked the donor countries for their generosity and the OHCHR for the support rendered by the Technical Cooperation Program.
25. Viet Nam	Technical assistance and cooperation programs are considerably effective; they should take into account the priorities of the countries concerned and follow the principles and mandates of the HRC and the OHCHR; the work of the HRC should be conducted in a constructive, non-confrontational and dialogue-based approach upon the request and in consultation with the countries concerned, upholding the principles of impartiality, objectivity, non-selectivity, and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. Philippines: Acknowledged the constructive engagement and cooperation of the Philippines with UN, the launch of the UN Joint Program for Human Rights. Appreciated the active role of the Philippines in responding to impacts of climate change on human rights; will continue the close cooperation with the country.
26. UN Women	Need to provide technical assistance towards the empowerment of all women and girls. The UN Women's Strategic Plan responds to Member States' requests for support, based on the principle of national ownership, upon the request of States (policy advocacy, technical advisory services and

⁶ on behalf of Saint Vincent and Grenadines and Suriname

	programming). Set out to translate global norms and standards into operational results to achieve gender equality. Achievements in 2020: 262 legal reforms to advance equality in 69 countries; the mobilization of COVID-19 responses by 590 women's groups in 50 countries; the provision of life-saving humanitarian support to more than half a million women and girls; reaching 1.3 billion people through Generation Equality.
27. Saudi Arabia	<p>Yemen: welcomed the 9th report of the Yemeni National Commission, stressed the importance of continuing to support the national mechanisms for investigation through the intensification of the OHCHR's support; it is the only national body investigating human rights violations in Yemen. Stressed the need for a peaceful solution to the Yemeni crisis, announced several peace initiatives, including a ceasefire and the resumption of dialogue with all Yemeni parties. The Houthi militia should stop confiscating and looting humanitarian aid.</p> <p>Philippines: commended all the positive efforts undertaken by the Philippines in the areas mentioned in the report.</p>
28. Tunisia	The HRC and treaty bodies constitute a broad field for crystallizing joint efforts and cooperation between states, UN mechanisms and civil society within a participatory approach, to further consolidate the universal human rights system. Reiterated the importance of cooperation in the field of human rights based on the principles of objectivity, impartiality, constructive dialogue, and true partnership, and in accordance with the needs of the concerned state. Stressed the need to continue working to improve the work of the HRC and rationalize international mechanisms by evaluating their effectiveness and avoiding overlap and duplication of activities; and the need for donors to continue support for the UN human rights mechanisms and to further strengthen the voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance.
29. New Zealand	<p>Welcomed OHCHR's technical cooperation and capacity building programmes in Cambodia and the Philippines.</p> <p>Cambodia: Concerned about the narrowing space for people to freely express their views, arrests and harassment of opposition politicians, CSOs and media. Introduction of a "National Internet Gateway", and COVID-19 measures disproportionately impacting human rights. Encouraged Cambodia to continue to cooperate with OHCHR's technical assistance programme.</p> <p>Philippines: concerned about the methods used in countering national security threats and illegal drugs. The launch of a 3-year joint programme is a step in the right direction. Acknowledged the role of civil society in ensuring the success of that programme.</p>
30. UAE	Yemen: Welcomed to the efforts of the Independent National Commission in Yemen. Welcomed the appointment of Mr. Hans Grundberg as the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen, and affirmed the UAE's continued support for the efforts of the United Nations in Yemen. Supported for the Saudi initiative to end the war in Yemen, and its efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement. Solidarity among all Yemenis is important for peace emanating from the 2011 Gulf Initiative and the relevant key resolutions, in particular Security Council Resolution 2216 of 2015. Confirmed the UAE's contribution to more than 6 billion US dollars in humanitarian and development aid to Yemen from 2015 to 2020, urged the international community to stop the Houthis' repeated provocations in the delivery of humanitarian aid.
31. Brunei	Philippines: Acknowledged cooperation between the Philippines and Iceland on the Joint HRC Resolution 45/33. This shows that HRC can provide space for dialogue and constructive engagement between delegations that respects the principle of sovereignty and non-interference which can translate into concrete actions and improvements for the people. Welcomed efforts and commitments by the Philippines; the launch of the 3-year UN Joint Program for Human Rights. Will continue to work closely with the Philippines to strengthen human rights cooperation in the region to implement of ASEAN Human Rights declaration and other human rights instruments, including through the ASEAN Inter-Governmental Commission on human rights.
32. Benin	Commended the Trust Fund for the support provided to delegates from various countries. The Fund deserved its capacities strengthened. Thanked all the donors. Assistance and technical cooperation are invaluable tools which support the efforts undertaken by developing countries. Benin is a candidate for the HRC for the period 2022-2024; would appreciate being able to benefit more from the support of the Technical Assistance Fund for its participation in regular and extraordinary sessions of the Council. Reaffirmed attachment to multilateralism and to the mechanisms of the Council.

<p>33. Lebanon</p>	<p>Philippines: Thanked to the delegation of the Philippines for the clarifications it provided. Noted the role that the Philippines plays within the United Nations system, and its constructive cooperation with the OHCHR, within the framework of the joint program on human rights. Appreciated the reforms and efforts undertaken by the authorities in the Philippines.</p> <p>Stressed the importance of technical cooperation and capacity building away from politicization, selectivity and double standards.</p>
<p>34. Iran</p>	<p><i>Aligned itself with the statements made on behalf of NAM, OIC and statements of China and Pakistan on behalf of group of countries.</i> Approaches to coerce Member States to accept technical assistance and capacity building undermine the principle of dialogue and cooperation at the Council and should be avoided to ensure applicability in providing advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to States upon their request, considering their national and regional particularities, historical, cultural and religious backgrounds, national needs and priorities. Mandates and discussions under Agenda Item 10 should adhere to the principles of technical cooperation, be with the consent and upon the request of the countries concerned and not be enforced or dictated. Acknowledges the constructive cooperation between the Philippines and the OHCHR on the basis of the HRC Resolution 45/33 as a pragmatic and constructive way forward.</p>
<p>35. Ethiopia</p>	<p>Philippines: Noted the progress of the Philippines to ensure accountability, promote human rights and rule of law. The continuation and development of Phase II of the EU Governance in Justice Program; and the launch of the UN Joint Program for Human Rights will complement the national efforts. Any effort to address any outstanding issue, should be able to complement the national efforts to ensure accountability, promote and protect human rights and ensure rule of law. Encouraged the Philippines to further strengthen the measures to comprehensively address the remaining issues.</p>
<p>36. Turkey</p>	<p>Technical assistance enables constructive dialogue and cooperation between States and human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>Philippines: Turkey is one of the co-sponsors of the HRC Resolution on technical cooperation to Philippines. Welcomed the signing of the three-year Joint Program on Human Rights in Manila. The instructions given by the President of the Philippines to the Department of Justice and National Police to review the conduct of the campaign against illegal drugs is a significant step. The review of the subjects affiliated with the Department of Justice has an important role in monitoring and assessing the judicial review of anti-illegal drugs operations. Welcomed the initiative to determine the criminal liability of 144 policemen involved in anti-drug operations. Confident that the Philippines will continue the constructive cooperation with the UN.</p>
<p>37. Lao PDR</p>	<p><i>Aligned itself with the groups' statements it belonged to.</i></p> <p>Philippines: Commended the constructive cooperation between the Philippines and the OHCHR in the implementation of the three-year UN Joint Program for Human Rights.</p> <p>International community should increase efforts in providing advisory services, capacity-building and technical assistance to States upon their consent and request, and according to their national specific needs and priority with a view to help States to fulfil their human rights obligations.</p>
<p>38. Malaysia</p>	<p><i>Associates itself with the statements of groups that it belongs to.</i> Called for the Council to continue efforts to truly realize the spirit and intention of Agenda Item 10. On Philippines and Cambodia: while several challenges relating to the human rights situation remain, appreciated efforts to address them. Welcomed Philippines' three-year United Nations Joint Program for Human Rights; the 11th renewal of the MoU on Technical Cooperation Program between Cambodia and the OHCHR; these are collaborative and pragmatic methods that could result in effective progress on the ground. Called upon the international community to continue supporting Philippines' and Cambodia's human rights endeavours.</p>
<p>39. Thailand</p>	<p>International cooperation is an effective way forward to address human rights challenges and should be based on consultation with and with the consent of a State concerned, take into account its request, needs and priorities.</p>

	<p>Philippines: Welcomed constructive cooperation between the Philippines and Iceland in proposing a Joint Resolution of the HRC 45/33. The UN Charter is a module for rendering in countries technical assistance in collaboration with the duty bearers. As a fellow ASEAN Member, Thailand is ready to work with the Philippines and relevant UN agencies as well regional human rights mechanisms to continue to protect and promote human rights for all.</p>
40. Sweden	<p><i>Aligned itself with the EU statement.</i> To ensure OHCHR's capacity, adequate and consistent funding must be secured. Sweden is a main contributor of core support.</p> <p>Cambodia should reopen democratic space.</p> <p>Yemen: supported the National Commission of Inquiry and the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts. Welcomed OHCHR's assistance. Reiterated the need for a cessation of hostilities and an inclusive political process.</p> <p>Georgia: Reaffirmed full support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, commended Georgia's efforts, encourage further reforms. Called for immediate and unimpeded access for OHCHR and other human rights mechanisms to Abkhazia and South Ossetia.</p> <p>Philippines: Appreciated the country's cooperation with OHCHR and encouraged further cooperation with the ICC. Concerned about enforced disappearances and deaths. Encouraged to strengthen protection of human rights defenders and to reopen schools closed due to the pandemic.</p>

STATEMENTS MADE ON BEHALF OF NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS	
1. Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Welcomed the commitment of the Government of the Philippines to cooperate with the UN system and human rights mechanisms to improve the human rights situation in the country. Optimistic regarding the 3-year Joint Program on Human Rights. There are still areas for improvements: killings, harassment, arbitrary detentions, enforced-disappearances, and red-tagging. The HRC must ensure that commitments yield actual results: reduction of violence, accountability, safe civic space, effective remedies for victims.
2. IDPC Consortium on behalf of the International Drug Policy Consortium and Harm Reduction International	Welcomed the High Commissioner's oral update on the Philippines . The human rights situation in the Philippines continues to deteriorate – extrajudicial killings associated with the war on drugs continued to increase, still with the vocal support of President Duterte. Urged the High Commissioner to guarantee the meaningful and safe involvement of civil society and communities, ensure the alignment of drug policies with international human rights standards.
3. Families of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance on behalf of 17 organizations	The failure of the Philippines government to address the deadly war on drugs elicited calls for an independent, impartial and effective investigation into the extra-legal killings to effect accountability at both the national and international levels. Called on HRC to establish a commission of inquiry or fact-finding mission to conduct investigation into the drug war-related and allied human rights violations.
4. International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL)	Philippines: On paper, the UN Joint Programme appears to be laudable. But the reality on the ground does not indicate any substantial positive effect. Called upon the Council to implement international accountability measures; and initiate its own independent investigation before more people are killed or persecuted.
5. Franciscans International (Joint Statement)	There is no substantial positive change on the ground in the Philippines. The Filipino people continue to be confronted with extreme widespread and daily State violence. Urged the HRC to consider establishing a Commission of Inquiry for the Philippines, to start the long-overdue independent and transparent investigation on the human rights violation in the country.
6. Organisation internationale pour les pays les moins avancés	Called the OHCHR to rethink the method of capacity building in comprehensive manner and establish its technical cooperation with the STC and Southern NGOs, including the Civil Network for Development, Media and Human Rights.

<p>7. International Commission of Jurists</p>	<p>Philippines: Condemned the official blacklisting of human rights defenders, lawyers, other individuals deemed to be critics by government officials as "terrorists" (known as "red-tagging"). Failure to conduct impartial investigations of killings of human rights defenders or those killed in the so-called "war on drugs" shows that an international investigation into this widespread violation is warranted. Reminded the Philippines Government of its duty to cooperate with the ICC, despite the denunciation of the Rome Statute in 2019. Urged the HRC to monitor the implementation of genuine accountability reforms in the Philippines.</p>
<p>8. Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development</p>	<p>Technical assistance to the Philippines has proven to be insufficient to address the widespread and systematic human rights violations and persistent impunity. Human rights defenders, lawyers, judges, journalists, indigenous peoples, and government critics including critics of the government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be killed, attacked, harassed, 'red-tagged' and accused of belonging to terrorist groups. There has been no tangible progress at the domestic level towards accountability for the thousands of extrajudicial killings. There is an urgency of more robust action by the Council, including mandating its own independent international investigation, to address ongoing serious violations and pervasive impunity.</p>
<p>9. Zero Pauvre Afrique</p>	<p>Yemen: Yemenis are subjected to massive human rights violations, amounting to war crimes practiced by the Houthi militia, which on 21 September 2014, overturned the legitimate authority and disrupted the state's organs, the law and the judiciary, and committed all kinds of human rights violations. Asked the Council to continue the National Commission, as the support of national mechanisms remains a priority over any other mechanism.</p>
<p>10. Christian Solidarity Worldwide</p>	<p>Sudan: Since its creation in 2006, the HRC has adopted at least one resolution annually on Sudan, most recently under Agenda Item 10. Urged Sudan to adopt a holistic human rights-based approach to the transition while working to facilitate the growth of an independent civil society and to maintain its support for the OHCHR and to extend a standing invitation to UN Special Procedures.</p>
<p>11. Amnesty International</p>	<p>Philippines: Concerned by human rights violations and crimes under international law, fuelled by entrenched impunity and continued incitement. Urged the Council to urgently revise its approach, and to launch the long-overdue investigation into the situation that has been requested by civil society for some years.</p> <p>Yemen: Supported the Council's efforts to provide capacity building and technical assistance to national entities. The situation demands an international mechanism, independent of all parties to this regional conflict. The Council must use all tools at its disposal to promote compliance with international law.</p>
<p>12. International Harm Reduction Association (Joint Statement)</p>	<p>Philippines: Supported the UN commitment to cooperate with the government towards human rights-centred drug policies, noted that human rights violations in the context of drug law enforcement have continued. Concerned by attempts to reintroduce the death penalty for drug offences.</p>
<p>13. Lawyers' Rights Watch Canada (Joint Statement)</p>	<p>Deplored the pattern of murders and attacks against lawyers and human rights defenders in the Philippines. Urged the Council to establish an adequately resourced international investigative mechanism to collect and preserve evidence of extrajudicial killings and other serious human rights violations in the Philippines.</p>
<p>14. Solidarité Suisse-Guinée</p>	<p>Drew attention to the humanitarian situation in Yemen, which has become clearly deteriorating due to the continued violations of the Houthi militia and its failure to respond to any peace talks. Emphasized the vision of CSOs of the necessity of the continuation of the work of the National Commission and the importance of its support and cooperation by HRC.</p>

<p>15. Human Rights Watch</p>	<p>Yemen: The provision of technical assistance to the National Commission under item 10 is insufficient to address the gravity and scale of the rights crisis in the country. It is vital that item 10 technical assistance be supplemented by renewing the mandate of the Group of Eminent Experts, which remains the only international, impartial, and independent body reporting on rights violations and abuses. Philippines: the situation in the country still demands action by the HRC to pressure the government to stop the killings in its "war on drugs" which continue unabated.</p>
<p>16. CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation</p>	<p>Urgently called on the HRC to establish an overdue independent investigation in the Philippines.</p>
<p>17. Synergie Feminine Pour La Paix Et Le Developpement Durable</p>	<p>Yemen: Representatives of Yemeni civil society believe that providing support to national mechanisms is one of the solutions to provide the truth and redress the victims, with the need to support Yemeni civil human rights and human rights organizations; suggested providing support to civil society monitors and training them to document violations and provide them with protection; called on the HRC and the High Commissioner to review of the mechanism of work of the expert group and to give priority to supporting national mechanisms and supporting Yemeni civil society.</p>
<p>18. Institut International pour les Droits et le Développement</p>	<p>Concerned about the returns to Libya of migrants and refugees who have been intercepted or rescued at sea while trying to cross to Europe. Denounced the policies of some EU countries that are taking advantage of the crisis in Libya to pass agreements and measures with Libya on migration. Addressing irregular migration across the Mediterranean requires genuine international cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination. The exceptional circumstances in Libya made it the easiest transit country in North Africa, but it is not responsible to make Libya alone bear the burden of migration.</p>
<p>19. Association D'Entraide Médicale Guinée</p>	<p>Yemen: Asked the Council to recommend to the expert group concerned with listening and taking into account the reports of all civil society organizations not rely on the reports of biased organizations of the Houthi militia. Called on the HRC's effective pressure to release all detainees in the prisons of the Houthi militia, especially women, human rights defenders and journalists.</p>
<p>20. PRAHAR</p>	<p>The large scale illegal migration changed the demographic scenario in Assam and became the important source to social, economic and political instability in North East India. Appealed the Council and its treaty bodies to provide technical assistance and guidance to government of India and Assam so that people of Assam and Northeast India can live a meaningful and better life.</p>
<p>21. The Next Century Foundation</p>	<p>Concerned with the plight of the Kurds and other ethnic groups living in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria, known as Rojava. It is a region that faces two ongoing military threats: from the so called Islamic State and from the Republic of Turkey. Called the USA to ensure that the conditions of the cease-fire they brokered are met to prevent future attacks. The global coalition against the Islamic State, led by the USA, must provide the region with the military aid they need to deal with the Islamist attacks.</p>
<p>22. Human Rights Information and Training Center</p>	<p>The support to the National Commission to Investigate Violations in Yemen is not enough; Yemen needs the support of its judicial systems in order to carry out the investigations into the monitored violations, and to refer them to justice, to ensure that victims are fair and criminals do not go unpunished. Yemeni NGOs also need technical support from OHCHR as well as financial support from donor countries to document and monitor human rights violations, especially in areas not controlled by the Houthi militia.</p>
<p>23. Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (Joint Statement)</p>	<p>Called upon the Council to immediately operationalize the High Commissioner's recommendation to implement international accountability measures in the Philippines in the absence of clear and measurable outcomes from domestic mechanisms. Urged the Council to conduct an independent investigation on the human rights situation in the country immediately without any further delay.</p>

<p>24. Commission of the World Council of Churches (WCC) <i>National Council of Churches in the Philippines with the WCC and Rise Up for Life and Rights</i></p>	<p>Philippines: Concerned about widespread impunity under the Duterte administration's 'war on drugs.' Such impunity continues to undermine the safety and human rights of poor Filipinos, especially in urban poor areas. Called on the HRC to conduct an independent investigation into the widespread and systematic killings and other human rights violations in the Philippines.</p>
<p>25. Maloca Internationale</p>	<p>In the latest report on Colombia the OHCHR offered its technical advice to the Ministry of National Defence to prevent situations of disproportionate use of force. In Bolivia, a technical assistance mission from the OHCHR took place after the 2019 presidential elections. Technical assistance in the field of human rights to Colombia during the next few parliamentary and presidential elections of March and May 2022 could be considered. In this way, it could prevent some cases of electoral fraud in Colombia. Thanked the European Commission for having made Colombia a priority to carry out an electoral oversight mission in 2022.</p>
<p>26. Association des étudiants tamouls de France</p>	<p>Concerned by cases of enforced disappearances and the adoption of the draconian law on anti-terrorism in Sri Lanka. Asked the HRC to send Sri Lanka to the ICC; to nominate a Special Rapporteur on Northeast Sri Lanka and provide technical assistance to the families of the enforced disappeared.</p>
<p>27. Society for Development and Community Empowerment</p>	<p>Concerned by the crimes against Tamils in Sri Lanka, they should be properly investigated. Asked the HRC to send Sri Lanka to the ICC; to nominate a Special Rapporteur on North East Sri Lanka; to recognise land of Tamils as non-self-governing territories; and to provide technical assistance to the families of the enforced disappeared.</p>
<p>28. Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule</p>	<p>The Tamil people are in need for the Council to provide the necessary technical assistance and capacity building to protect their rights. In May 2009, Sri Lankan military forces made a genocidal war against Tamils. Urged the Council to refer Sri Lanka to the ICC; to name a special Rapporteur for North East of Sri Lanka; to give technical support to the families of victims of enforced disappearances.</p>
<p>29. Action of Human Movement (AHM)</p>	<p>Eelam Tamil is urgently in need for OHCHR to provide the necessary technical assistance to protect their right to live in peace until they enjoyed the right to self-determination as non-self-governing territory. Requested the Council to recognize Eelam Tamils Genocide by Sri Lankan unitary state; to nominate the Special Rapporteur for North and East of Sri Lanka; to give technical support to the families of victims of enforced disappearances.</p>
<p>30. Center for Africa Development and Progress</p>	<p>No demilitarization in Tamil areas. The genocide continues under the assistance of the Sri Lankan armed forces present in the North and East of the Tamil dominated areas. Urged the UNHRC and the International Community to immediately refer Sri Lanka to the ICC.</p>