



Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights

The United Nations General Assembly

The General Assembly of the United Nations has adopted, in its seventy-second session in December 2017, the resolution entitled “Globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights”. The resolution came after recalling number of conventions and charters, namely the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance in 2001, the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference adopted in 2009, and the political declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, entitled “United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance”, in 2011 as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The General Assembly reaffirmed all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing, in particular, the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction.

The UN recalled also the Human Rights Council resolutions 21/5 of 27 September 2012 on the contribution of the United Nations



system as a whole to the advancement of the business and human rights agenda and the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The resolution realized that globalization affects all countries differently and makes them more exposed to external developments, positive as well as negative, inter alia, in the field of human rights, indicating that it is not merely an economic process, but that it also has social, political, environmental, cultural and legal dimensions, which have an impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The General Assembly emphasized the need to fully implement the global partnership for development and enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit in order to operationalize and implement the commitments made in the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the 2005 World Summit, in the economic, social and related fields, and reaffirming in particular the commitment contained in paragraphs 19 and 47 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome to promote fair globalization and the development of the productive sectors in developing countries to enable them to participate more effectively in and benefit from the process of globalization.

The resolution realized the need to undertake a thorough, independent and comprehensive assessment of the social, environmental and cultural impact of globalization on societies, acknowledging that each culture has a value that deserve recognition, respect and preservation, convinced that, in their rich variety and diversity and in the reciprocal influences that they exert on one another, all cultures form part of the common heritage belonging to all humankind, and aware of the risk that globalization poses more of a threat to cultural diversity if the developing world remains poor and marginalized.

The resolution confirmed the key role of multilateral mechanisms in meeting the challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, demonstrating the need to consider the challenges and opportunities linked to globalization with a view to addressing such challenges and building on possible opportunities in order to achieve the full enjoyment of all human rights.

The General Assembly expressed grave concern at the negative impact of international financial turmoil on social and economic de-



velopment and on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly in the light of the continuing global financial and economic crisis, which may have an adverse impact on the ability of Member States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and recognizing that developing countries are in a more vulnerable situation when facing such impact and that regional economic cooperation and development strategies and programmes can play a role in mitigating such impact.

It also expressed deep concern at the negative impact of the continuing global food and energy crises and climate change challenges on social and economic development and on the full enjoyment of all human rights for all, bringing into light the need of globalization to be guided by the fundamental principles that underpin the corpus of human rights, such as equity, participation, accountability, non-discrimination, transparency, inclusivity and equality at both the national and the international levels, the respect for diversity, tolerance and international cooperation and solidarity.

The existence of widespread extreme poverty inhibits the full realization and effective enjoyment of human rights and that its immediate alleviation and eventual elimination must remain a high priority for the international community. Moreover, the increasing debt burden faced by the most indebted developing countries is unsustainable and constitutes one of the principal obstacles to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication and that, for many developing countries, excessive debt servicing has severely constrained their capacity to promote social development and to provide basic services to realize economic, social and cultural rights.

The inadequacy of measures to narrow the widening gap between the developed and the developing countries, and within countries has contributed to deepening poverty and has adversely affected the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries.

Moreover, the resolution emphasized that transnational corporations and other business enterprises have a responsibility to respect all human rights,

Finally, it confirms on the need to ensure that all economic activities, including those affected by globalization, are consistent with those aims:



1. *Recognizes* that, while globalization may affect human rights, the promotion and protection of all human rights is first and foremost the responsibility of the State;
2. *Emphasizes* that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda and that coherence between national development strategies and international obligations and commitments is imperative for an enabling environment for development and an inclusive and equitable globalization;
3. *Reaffirms* that narrowing the gap between rich and poor, both within and between countries, is an explicit goal at the national and international levels, as part of the effort to create an enabling environment for the full enjoyment of all human rights;
4. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to create an environment at both the national and the global levels that is conducive to development and to the eradication of poverty by promoting good governance within each country and at the international level, eliminating protectionism, enhancing transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems and committing to an open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system;
5. *Recognizes* the impact that the global financial and economic crisis is still having on the ability of countries, particularly developing countries, to mobilize resources for development and to address the impact of this crisis, and in this context calls upon all States and the international community to alleviate, in an inclusive and development-oriented manner, any negative impacts of this crisis on the realization and the effective enjoyment of all human rights;
6. *Also recognizes* that, while globalization offers great opportunities, the fact that its benefits are very unevenly shared and its costs unevenly distributed represents an aspect of the process that affects the full enjoyment of all human rights, in particular in developing countries;
7. *Reaffirms* the international commitment to eliminating hunger and to securing food for all, today and tomorrow, and reiterates that the relevant United Nations organizations should be assured the resources needed to expand and enhance their food assistance



- and support social safety net programmes designed to address hunger and malnutrition, when appropriate, through the use of local or regional purchase;
8. *Calls upon* Member States, relevant agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and civil society to promote inclusive, equitable and environmentally sustainable economic growth for managing globalization so that poverty is systematically reduced and the international development targets are achieved;
 9. *Recognizes* that the responsible operations of transnational corporations and other business enterprises can contribute to the promotion, protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular economic, social and cultural rights;
 10. *Also recognizes* that only through broad and sustained efforts, including policies and measures at the global level to create a shared future based upon our common humanity in all its diversity, can globalization be made fully inclusive and equitable and have a human face, thus contributing to the full enjoyment of all human rights;
 11. *Underlines* the urgent need to establish an equitable, transparent and democratic international system to strengthen and broaden the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;
 12. *Affirms* that globalization is a complex process of structural transformation, with numerous interdisciplinary aspects, which has an impact on the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;
 13. *Also affirms* that the international community should strive to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by globalization in a manner that promotes and protects human rights while ensuring respect for the cultural diversity of all; and
 14. *Underlines*, therefore, the need to continue to analyse the consequences of globalization for the full enjoyment of all human rights.