

ADOPTION OF THE 2023 UN ELECTION RESOLUTION

A Compilation and Analysis of the
Adoption of the UNGA Third Committee
Resolution on Strengthening the Role
of the United Nations in the Promotion
of Democratization and Enhancing
Periodic and Genuine Elections

December 2023

A Briefing Paper by
Outright International (Outright)
International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)





Outright International works together for better LGBTIQ lives. Outright is dedicated to working with partners around the globe to strengthen the capacity of the LGBTIQ human rights movement, document and amplify human rights violations against LGBTIQ people, and advocate for inclusion and equality. Founded in 1990, with staff in over a dozen countries, Outright works with the United Nations, regional human rights monitoring bodies, governments, humanitarian and development institutions, and civil society partners. Outright holds consultative status at the United Nations, where it also serves as the secretariat of the UN LGBTI Core Group.

www.outrightinternational.org
hello@outrightinternational.org
facebook.com/outrightintl
twitter.com/outrightintl
youtube.com/@OutrightIntl

Outright International
216 East 45th Street, 17th Floor New York, NY 10017 USA
P: +1 (212) 430.6054

This work may be reproduced and redistributed, in whole or in part, without alteration and without prior written permission, solely for nonprofit administrative or educational purposes provided all copies contain the following statement:

© 2023 Outright International. This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercialNoDerivatives 4.0 International License. To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, PO Box 1866, Mountain View, CA 94042, USA.

Acknowledgments

This briefing paper was written by Hannah Kohn, United Nations Program Officer at Outright International, with support from Tess Mcevoy, Programme Director and Legal Counsel at the International Service for Human Rights. This briefing paper was reviewed and edited by André du Plessis, United Nations Program Director at Outright International, Neela Ghoshal, Outright's Senior Director of Law, Policy, and Research, and Tess Mcevoy. Hala Hassan, Outright's Digital Communications Officer, provided communications support and coordination. AJ Jarrett provided copyediting, Hannah Christensen provided transcription services, and Megan Buckner designed this briefing paper.



Contents

Glossary	5
I. Introduction	6
Background: The Resolution	7
Presentation of Amendments	8
Voting Trends	8
II. Annotated Transcript	14
Presenting the Resolution	15
Presentation of Amendments	16
Pre-Vote Statements on the Amendments	19
Voting on Amendments	24
Post-Vote Statements on the Amendments	26
Vote on the Draft Resolution	26
Pre-Vote Statements on the Draft Resolution	27
Post-Vote Statements on the Draft Resolution	30
Annex A: Draft Resolution	47
Annex B: Amendments Introduced by the OIC	58
Annex C: Vote on Final Resolution	62
Index of Member State Statements	64

Glossary

Gender: The social and cultural codes (linked to but not congruent with ideas about biological sex) used to distinguish between society’s conceptions of “femininity” and “masculinity.”

Gender Identity: A person’s internal, deeply felt sense of being a woman or girl, man or boy, a combination of these, neither, or something else.

LGBTIQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, and Queer): An inclusive term used to categorize people whose identities or bodies do not meet cultural expectations of endosex, cisgender heteronormativity. Outright uses the term LGBTIQ as an umbrella term that includes people who may not themselves identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer but who use other terms to describe their sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics, including terms from their own local, linguistic and cultural context. At the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, the United Nations LGBTI Core Group uses the term “LGBTI” in a similar vein.

United Nations Member State: One of the 193 countries that are represented at the United Nations.

OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation): An intergovernmental organization consisting of 57 member states, with 48 being Muslim-majority countries, that also operates at the United Nations as a collective group of countries.

Sexual Orientation: An individual’s sexual orientation is indicated by one or more of the following: how a person identifies their sexual orientation, a person’s capacity for experiencing sexual and/or affectional attraction to people of the same and/or different gender, and/or a person’s sexual behavior with people of the same and/or different gender.

SOGI (Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity):

Within the United Nations and elsewhere, the terms sexual orientation and gender identity are often used together and the term “SOGI” is a shorthand.

UNGA (United Nations General Assembly): The highest decision-making body of the United Nations with equal participation of all 193 member States of the United Nations. The General Assembly considers and makes recommendations on any issue that falls under the scope of the United Nations Charter, including human rights, peace and security, political cooperation, and international collaboration. It meets at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in annual sessions that start each September.

UNGA Third Committee: The United Nations General Assembly allocates most of its work to its six main committees which take up different issues before presenting draft resolutions and decisions to the full General Assembly. The Third Committee, officially called the Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Affairs Committee, carries out a majority of the human rights work that takes place through the General Assembly. Any of the 193 UN member states can propose resolutions within the scope of the Third Committee mandate. The Committee can adopt resolutions through a vote or by consensus. It then refers these resolutions to the General Assembly plenary, again for a confirmatory vote or adoption by consensus.

I. Introduction

Introduction

Individuals who are members of marginalized groups are more likely to be denied the right to vote in fair elections and are also more often victims of discriminatory acts carried out with impunity by governing authorities...No voter should be denied the right to freely choose representatives to free and fair elections because of who they are.

**– REPRESENTATIVE OF LIBERIA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

On 10 November 2023, the United Nations General Assembly’s Third Committee adopted a resolution on promoting democracy and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. The Resolution on Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the Promotion of Democratization and Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections (hereinafter “resolution”) is a biennial resolution that promotes democracy as a universal value and the ability of all people to participate in free and fair elections.

The resolution calls on UN member states to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations, and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, including based on race, color, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views, or on the basis of disability. The resolution also highlights the importance of including women in all their diversity in election processes and ensuring freedom from discrimination.

This briefing paper provides background on the resolution. It analyzes voting patterns, highlighting member states that changed their votes or co-sponsorship status since the last resolution in 2021, when language on sexual orientation and gender identity

was first incorporated in the resolution. It then examines regional dynamics and provides an annotated transcript of the session. This briefing paper also includes the text of the resolution and proposed amendments.

BACKGROUND: THE RESOLUTION

Since 1991 the United States of America has presented a resolution on democracy and elections on a biennial basis.

In addition to promoting democracy and free, fair, and periodic elections, the resolution supports the work of the UN Electoral Assistance Division, which helps democracies and countries undergoing democratization build electoral systems. More than 115 countries have requested and received UN electoral assistance since 1991. The Electoral Assistance Division also supports regional and intergovernmental organizations involved in elections. Due to wide support for the general values expressed in the resolution and the support for the Electoral Assistance Division, the resolution is usually passed by consensus.

In 2021, the US Mission to the UN presented the resolution with updated language focusing on gender-based barriers to accessing free and fair elections. The resolution included a section discussing groups that

UN human rights treaty bodies actually have consistently reaffirmed that international human rights law applies equally to all persons, and that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected from discrimination under international human rights law.

**– REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE
NETHERLANDS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

are more likely to be excluded from access to electoral processes, including people discriminated against based on race, color, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI), language, religion, political views, or on the basis of disability. While the resolution passed, many member states attempted to remove the reference to “sexual orientation and gender identity” and a reference to women “in all their diversity” by proposing amendments to remove this language from the resolution text. These amendments ultimately failed, and the resolution passed by consensus with the language intact.

Micronesia strongly believes that every voter has the right to participate in free and fair elections without any discrimination based on their background or identity. If the General Assembly decides not to take into account the marginalization or vulnerable situation of any group mentioned in the text, it would send a dangerous message to all vulnerable groups.

– REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

In 2023, a group of member states again proposed amendments to remove the same references to “sexual orientation and gender identity,” and women “in all their diversity.” The group of member states also sought to remove a reference to the 2021 resolution, likely because it included that very language. The Russian Federation introduced a separate amendment to incorporate a reference to International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights article 19. Article 19 limits the right to freedom of expression, and the Russian Federation advocated for its inclusion to emphasize that the freedom of expression is not absolute. All four amendments to the resolution were put to a vote and ultimately failed. The Russian Federation then called for a vote on the resolution as a whole, breaking the practice of this resolution being passed by consensus. The vote on the unamended resolution was successful, and the resolution passed.

Member states that opposed the reference to protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity articulated that they did so based on their national laws and religious and cultural values. They also argued that there are no agreed-upon definitions

of sexual orientation, gender identity, and diversity under international law, which those member states referred to as “controversial language.” On the other hand, member states that supported the inclusion of this language highlighted the universality of human rights and that all people have human rights under international law, including people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.

PROPOSAL OF AMENDMENTS

Three of the four amendments were presented by Egypt on behalf of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), with the exception of Albania, Suriname, and Guyana. In 2018 in the presentation of amendments to a different resolution, the UNGA Third Committee clarified that an amendment tabled in the name of a regional group must have group consensus in order for the amendment to be tabled under that group’s name. Given this, the US called for a point of order, and inquired by whom the amendments were being presented. This question was asked on the basis that Albania, Suriname, and Guyana (all OIC members) did not support the amendment, which indicated that the OIC was not bringing amendments as a full bloc. While the form in which the amendments were proposed ultimately remained the same (i.e., as the OIC “except” the three countries, rather than a list of countries supporting), the process demonstrated a lack of consensus within the OIC.

VOTING TRENDS

Three key observations on member state voting patterns on this resolution are set out below:

- In 2023, **five more member states** overall voted to **remove language on sexual orientation and gender identity**, and **five more member states** voted to **remove women “in all their diversity”** than in 2021.
- Overall, **10 fewer member states co-sponsored the resolution** in 2023 than in 2021.
- In 2023, **the resolution was called to a vote** rather than passed by consensus, as it was in 2021.

At the same time, there was increased support for “sexual orientation and gender identity” or “women in all their diversity” language in specific regional groups:

- **Caribbean:** Six countries increased¹ their support for “sexual orientation and gender identity” language in the resolution, and five strengthened their support for the reference to “women in all their diversity.”
- **South and Southeast Asia:** Two countries increased their support for language on both “sexual orientation and gender identity” and “women in all their diversity.”
- **Pacific:** Three countries increased their support for “sexual orientation and gender identity” language and two strengthened their support for “women in all their diversity.”

- **Africa:** Two countries increased their support of both “sexual orientation and gender identity” and “women in all their diversity.”

The number of votes on the amendment to remove language on “sexual orientation and gender identity”, the amendment to remove language on “women in all their diversity,” the vote on the resolution as a whole, and the number of co-sponsorships can be seen below in figure one.



Figure 1: Comparison of vote numbers in 2021 and 2023.

¹ Votes with “increased” or “strengthened” support either shifted from not voting or abstaining from voting in 2021 to voting against the amendments in 2023; or voting for the amendments in 2021 to not voting, abstaining, or even voting against the amendments in 2023.

The tables below demonstrate that some member states changed their votes on the amendment to remove language on “sexual orientation and gender identity” (figure two), and the amendment to remove language on “women in all their diversity” (figure three) between 2021 and 2023.

Member states whose votes moved in a direction favorable to maintaining language on “sexual orientation and gender identity” or “women in all their diversity” are marked in green. These votes either shifted from not voting or abstaining from voting in 2021 to voting against

the amendments in 2023; or voting for the amendments in 2021 to not voting, abstaining, or even voting against the amendments in 2023.

Member states whose votes moved in a direction unfavorable to maintaining language on “sexual orientation and gender identity” or “women in all their diversity” are marked in red. These member states either shifted from voting against the amendments in 2021 to not voting or abstaining, or even voting for the amendments in 2023; or from not voting or abstaining in 2021 to voting for the amendments in 2023.

VOTES ON THE AMENDMENT TO REMOVE “SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY” FROM THE RESOLUTION

MEMBER STATE	2021 VOTE	2023 VOTE
Antigua and Barbuda	Did not vote	No
Bhutan	Did not vote	No
Botswana	Abstained	No
Cambodia	Yes	Did not vote
Grenada	Yes	Did not vote
Guatemala	Yes	No
Haiti	Yes	Did not vote
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Did not vote	No
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Yes	Did not vote
St. Lucia	Yes	Did not vote
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Yes	Did not vote
Samoa	Yes	Did not vote
Sierra Leone	Yes	Did not vote
Solomon Islands	Yes	Did not vote
Suriname	Did not vote	No
Bahamas	No	Abstained
Burkina Faso	Did not vote	Yes
Burundi	Did not vote	Yes

MEMBER STATE	2021 VOTE	2023 VOTE
Chad	Did not vote	Yes
Congo	No	Abstained
Côte d'Ivoire	No	Abstained
Fiji	No	Did not vote
Ghana	Did not vote	Yes
Jordan	Abstained	Yes
Kazakhstan	Did not vote	Yes
Kenya	Abstained	Yes
Kiribati	No	Abstained
Lebanon	No	Abstained
Maldives	Did not vote	Yes
Mauritius	No	Did not vote
Morocco	Did not vote	Yes
Mozambique	Abstained	Yes
Papua New Guinea	No	Abstained
Paraguay	No	Abstained
Philippines	No	Abstained
Tajikistan	Did not vote	Yes
Timor-Leste	No	Yes
Togo	Abstained	Yes
Tunisia	Abstained	Yes
Turkey	No	Yes
Turkmenistan	Did not vote	Yes
Tuvalu	No	Did not vote
Vanuatu	No	Did not vote

Figure 2: Member states whose votes on the amendment to remove language on sexual orientation and gender identity from the resolution shifted between 2021 and 2023.

VOTES ON THE AMENDMENT TO REMOVE WOMEN “IN ALL THEIR DIVERSITY” FROM THE RESOLUTION

MEMBER STATE	2021 VOTE	2023 VOTE
Antigua and Barbuda	Did not vote	No
Bhutan	Did not vote	No
Botswana	Abstained	No
Cambodia	Yes	Did not vote
Grenada	Yes	Did not vote
Guatemala	Yes	No
Haiti	Yes	Did not vote
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Did not vote	No
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Yes	Did not vote
Sierra Leone	Yes	Did not vote
Solomon Islands	Yes	Did not vote
Suriname	Did not vote	No
Bahamas	No	Abstained
Burkina Faso	Did not vote	Yes
Burundi	Did not vote	Yes
Chad	Abstained	Yes
Congo	No	Yes
Fiji	No	Did not vote
Ghana	Did not vote	Yes
Jordan	Abstained	Yes
Kenya	Abstained	Yes
Lesotho	No	Abstained
Maldives	Did not vote	Yes
Mauritius	No	Did not vote
Mozambique	Abstained	Yes
Namibia	No	Abstained

MEMBER STATE	2021 VOTE	2023 VOTE
Papua New Guinea	Did not Vote	Yes
Paraguay	No	Abstained
Togo	Abstained	Yes
Turkey	No	Yes
Tuvalu	No	Did not vote
Vanuatu	No	Did not vote

Figure 3: Member states whose votes on the amendment to remove language on women “in all their diversity” from the resolution shifted between 2021 and 2023.

Member states can show strong support for resolutions in advance by co-sponsoring the texts alongside the state introducing the resolution. The table below shows which member states shifted their co-sponsorship status

between 2021 and 2023 (figure 4). A member state that did not co-sponsor in 2021 but did co-sponsor in 2023 is marked in green. Member states that did co-sponsor the resolution in 2021 but not in 2023 are marked in red.

CO-SPONSORSHIP

MEMBER STATE	2021	2023
Guatemala	Did not co-sponsor	Co-sponsor
Botswana	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Burkina Faso	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Central African Republic	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Chad	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Lebanon	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Lesotho	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Papua New Guinea	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Paraguay	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Timor-Leste	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor
Vanuatu	Co-sponsor	Did not co-sponsor

Figure 4: Member states whose co-sponsorship status changed between 2021 and 2023.

To better capture the position of each member state, the annotated transcript of the full Third Committee discussion on the resolution follows.

II. Annotated Transcript

Annotated Transcript

PRESENTING THE RESOLUTION

The United States of America introduced the biennial resolution on strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. The draft resolution can be found in Annex A.

United States of America: Thank you chairperson. The United States is pleased to introduce again, our biennial resolution of strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. We're happy to be joined by more than 65 co-sponsors from across different regions of the world in affirming member states' responsibility to ensure free and fair elections. The United States conducted an open and transparent process with three rounds of negotiations, and with ample opportunity to discuss all proposals. To this end, we regret to see several amendments tabled to the text today.

The biennial resolution supports the work of the UN electoral assistance division to help democracies and countries undergoing democratization build fair and sustainable national electoral systems. It also promotes the universality of democratic principles based on the free will of the people and their full participation in all aspects of public affairs, including the need for free and fair elections in which all citizens can participate. We're also pleased that the resolution emphasizes the importance of inclusion of all women and girls in political processes and recognizes the need to ensure political participation and voting by citizens who are marginalized and underrepresented.

This year the resolution emphasizes the importance of media freedom and freedom of expression during elections. It underscores the crucial role a free and independent press plays in keeping citizens informed at all stages of elections, condemns attacks against journalists and media workers, and reaffirms the need for all member states to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression.

We call upon member states to uphold and promote the commitments they have made in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; in particular, the commitment that the will of the people as expressed through periodic and genuine elections shall be the basis of government authority. Moreover, we condemn any manipulation of electoral processes that undermines the free expression of the will of electors. Elections shall be representative of a diverse and vast electorate, and all eligible citizens need to be free to participate in order to yield a truly fair result.

The United States looks forward to the adoption of this important resolution by consensus to strengthen the UN role in enhancing elections and promoting democracy. Thank you.



Above: The representative of the United States of America presents the draft Resolution on Strengthening the Role of the United Nations in the Promotion of Democratization and Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections.

Secretary: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'd like to announce that since the submission of the draft resolution and in addition to those delegations listed on the L document, the following countries have also become co-sponsors of L [Limited distribution document] 51: Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Israel, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Norway, Palau, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia and Thailand. If any other countries wish to co-sponsor Resolution L.51, please signify by pressing the microphone button. I see no requests, thank you.

PRESENTATION OF AMENDMENTS

Four amendments were presented to the draft resolution. The first amendment was presented by the Russian Federation, and the following three amendments were presented by Egypt on behalf of the Organization on Islamic Cooperation (OIC) with the exceptions of Albania, Suriname, and Guyana. The amendments introduced by Egypt can be found in Annex B.

Chair: Thank you. I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation to make a statement in connection with the amendment contained in document L66.

Russian Federation: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We think this draft resolution is important. It was designed to assist member states on the part of the UN in organizing electoral processes. Having said that, this year, the sponsors decided to choose as the theme the link between elections, freedom of expression, and media freedom. There is such a link even though it's not as absolute as described in the draft before us today.

So far, the draft reflects only one view, making the right to free expression absolute. In that context, we and other delegations suggested, in the course of consultations, that the text be corrected and made more balanced. Unfortunately, most of our proposals were not taken on board. In that connection, we have to suggest an amendment to the draft.

Amendment One (L.66):

The first amendment, presented by the Russian Federation, proposed to add a reference to the 20th article of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). ICCPR article 20 says:

- 1. Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law.*
- 2. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence shall be prohibited by law.*

The proposal was to include ICCPR article 20 alongside the draft resolution's current reference to ICCPR article 19. Article 19 reads:

- 1. Everyone shall have the right to hold opinions without interference.*
- 2. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.*
- 3. The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:*
 - a. For respect of the rights or reputations of others;*
 - b. For the protection of national security or of public order (ordre public), or of public health or morals.*

As such, the proposed amendment would emphasize the limits on the right to the freedom of expression, which was the central theme of this year's draft resolution.



Above: The representative of the Russian Federation proposes an amendment to the draft resolution.

Preambulary Paragraph 40 of draft resolution 51 mentions only one component of the rights to free expression in accordance with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. However, if the sponsors are quoting from the covenant, they should do it fully, not selectively. For some reason, they do not mention the fact that this right is related to special responsibility and can be limited under law.

Furthermore, in the context of free expression, one always has to remember that the propaganda of war and hatred based on ethnic racial or religious considerations must also be banned. This is stated by international law, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The latest aspect is particularly important in the context of elections when extremist political forces use hate speech, exploiting such shameful phenomena as racism, Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, Christianophobia, Afrophobia, migrant phobia, and others.

In this connection we suggest including in the draft resolution an additional paragraph which would touch upon these aspects when addressing the right to free expression. We believe that including this paragraph and the draft resolution on elections is logical, justified, and necessary. We call on delegations to support this amendment and your obligations under international law. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of the Russian Federation and give the floor to the Secretary.

Secretary: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since the submission of the amendment the following countries have also become co-sponsors of L.66. Belarus, Burundi, Egypt, and the Syrian Arab Republic, if any other countries wish

to co-sponsor the amendment contained in document L.66 please signify by pressing the microphone. I see no requests.

The Second, Third and Fourth Amendments (L.67, L.68, and L.69.)

The next three amendments were presented by Egypt on behalf of the OIC, with the exception of Albania, Suriname, and Guyana.

The first amendment introduced by Egypt proposed removing a reference to women “in all their diversity,” and instead including language on women “on an equal basis with men.”

The second amendment introduced by Egypt proposed the removal of a reference to the elections resolution passed in 2021, due to the inclusion of “controversial” language in that resolution (language on sexual orientation, gender identity, and diversity).

The third amendment introduced by Egypt proposed the removal of the language “sexual orientation and gender identity” from a list of marginalized groups and identities at particular risk of being denied the opportunity to participate in electoral and democratic processes.

The amendments are available in Annex B.

Chair: Thank you. I now give the floor to the representative of Egypt to make a statement in connection with the amendments contained in documents L.67., L.68., and L.69.

Egypt: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. May I just request a clarification? Are we going to take action on three amendments in the collective or separately?

Chair: We will take action on all four amendments L.66, L.67, L.68, L.69, one after the other but in a row.

Egypt: So I will introduce each amendment separately or not. Because I had different statements to introduce each of them. But anyway, so I'll have to improvise.

So in this connection, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of the distinguished colleagues here in 3C to the note verbale that was sent by the mission of Egypt in its capacity as coordinator of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation on human rights issues, indicating that the amendments contained in documents L.67, L.68, and L.69 are introduced and submitted on behalf of the group of member states of the OIC except Albania and Suriname, and these include all the member states that are listed on the L document. Unfortunately, we have been informed by the Secretariat that the system electronically does not allow the groups to provide the exception to member states who have chosen not to join in submitting the amendment and we look forward to further discussions with the Secretariat on this issue in order to make the system more adaptable to the needs and the priorities of the groups which have the prerogative to choose how they determine their own internal procedures of decision making.

Regarding the first amendment, the first amendment relates to PP 10, which highlights the importance of including “women in all their diversity” on an equal basis with men in election processes. And in this connection, OIC is submitting the amendment to delete the reference “in all their diversity” and to add “on an equal basis with men.”

The reasoning behind this is that the reference “in all their diversity” is a vague reference and it does not have a definition and it makes it difficult for member states to look at the provisions of this important resolution and implement it in full. This is also what relates to the reference to the equal basis because it is unclear on equal basis with whom exactly women are going to be included in political processes as they relate to election processes, and I would like to request member states to vote in favor of that amendment. Shall I introduce... I don't have time to introduce the two other amendments.

Chair: I see a point of order from the US.

United States of America: Thank you so much Chair. Just a point of clarification for my distinguished colleague from Egypt. On which group are these amendments made on behalf of? Because I heard several different iterations including during the presentation on behalf of the OIC. I also heard OIC minus several countries but then also noting that the countries

listed on the amendment are different than the countries that were also read out as absent here as well. So just trying to understand which group these amendments are on behalf of. Thank you.



Above: The representative of the United States of America clarifies that the amendment is not presented by all OIC states.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of the United States. I will request the delegation of Egypt to make a clarification there and with the same way I give you additional time to make your presentations of the other two amendments.

Egypt: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. As I just mentioned, we tried to submit this as the OIC and it was decided within the group of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation that member states will join this amendment, except for two member states who have informed the delegation of Egypt in its capacity as coordinator to remove them from the list of co-sponsors. So this is why we are presenting this on behalf of the group of OIC. However, the system electronically did not allow the group to submit as members of OIC and delete or remove the names of the member states who do not wish to join this amendment. So this is the explanation that we have just given. Thank you.

Chair: I also gave you time to introduce the other two amendments.

Egypt: So in quick terms, the second amendment relates to PP [preambular paragraph] 12 which is recalling previous resolutions on the subject and it has a particular reference to the resolution 76/176. This resolution, those in the room remember that there were amendments presented to that resolution and despite the fact that it did not go for a vote and it was adopted by consensus, however, it has controversial references from which

delegations disassociated during the adoption and hence we are not in a position to accept that particular reference to that resolution.

And this also applies to the third and final amendment which relates to the reformulation of the language that comes in OP [operative paragraph] seven regarding the basis of discrimination on which we include language that comes directly from SDG 10.2. So OP seven we are introducing an OP seven alt with a different listing derived from SDG 10.2. SDG 10.2 relates to social and economic and political inclusion and hence it is very relevant to the context of elections and accordingly, we are introducing a new listing that says including on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, ethnicity, language, origin, political views, religion or economic or other status. In this connection, the group sees that this is a sufficient and comprehensive listing.

And we take note of the interests of the main sponsor of that resolution to include extra elements aside from those that came from SDG 10.2 and hence we included all those extra elements without the controversial references to sexual orientation and gender identity, because this is an alien concept that does not enjoy the consensus within the UN constituency, and hence we don't see it relevant. Especially that the reference to other status is sufficient enough to cover groups that have not been mentioned in the resolution we got without going to controversial languages. And it is also not only because we do not support the references sexual orientation and gender identity.



Above: The representative of Egypt introduces three proposed amendments to the draft resolution. The first recommends removing language on women “in all their diversity” and adding women “on an equal basis with men.” The second amendment recommends removing a reference to the resolution on elections in 2021, due to its references to “women in all their diversity” and “sexual orientation and gender identity.” The third amendment recommends removing language on “sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt and I give the floor to the Secretary.

Secretary: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Since the submission of the amendments contained in documents L.67, L. 68, and L.69, the delegations of Burundi and Zimbabwe have joined as sponsors of each of the three amendments. If any other delegation wishes to join as a sponsor of L.67, please signify. I see the United Republic of Tanzania and Nigeria. I see no further requests for L.67. With respect to the amendment containing L.68, if any countries wish to join as sponsors, please signify by pressing the microphone button. I see Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. I see no further request. With respect to the amendment contained in L.69, if any countries wish to join as sponsors please press the microphone button. I see Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. Thank you.

PRE-VOTE STATEMENTS ON THE AMENDMENTS

Before member states voted on the proposed amendments to the draft resolution, as is the general practice they were given an opportunity to make a general statement or explanation of their votes.

Chair: Thank you. Colleagues, in accordance with rule 130 of the rules of procedure of the GA, the committee will first take a decision on the amendments. Does any delegation wish to make a general statement or an explanation of vote, before the vote, in connection with any or all of the amendments to Draft resolution L.51, which are, as you know, contained in documents L.66, L.67, L.68, and L.69?

I give the floor to Guyana.

Guyana: Thank you Mr. Chair for giving me the floor. I just wanted to take the floor on the amendments just tabled by Egypt. Perhaps it may have been an oversight from our distinguished delegates from Egypt but Guyana had also requested to be excluded from that listing. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Guyana clarifies that it does not join as a co-sponsor of the OIC amendments.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Guyana and give the floor to North Macedonia.

North Macedonia: Thank you Chair, I will refer to all four amendments.

The aim of this resolution is to promote universality of democratic values, not just one view, based on free will of the people and their full participation in aspects of public affairs, including of course, free and fair elections.



Above: The North Macedonian ambassador speaks in support of references to groups in the resolution.

The resolution reaffirms the need to promote the rights of all citizens who are especially marginalized and underrepresented in political participation and voting, allowing for gender mainstreaming within political institutions and the creation of more inclusive society. It is of extreme importance that references to vulnerable groups remain in the resolution. Individuals who are members of vulnerable groups are more likely to be denied their rights to free and fair elections, and are also more often victims of the discriminatory acts carried out with impunity by the government authorities. It will send the wrong message to all vulnerable groups mentioned

in the text if the General Assembly decides their marginalization or vulnerable situation does not warrant attention.

We therefore will vote against the amendments and call on others to vote against them as well. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of North Macedonia and give the floor to Indonesia.

Indonesia: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We appreciate the delegation of the United States for tabling this resolution.

As the third largest democracy in the world, we attach high hopes to this resolution. In 2019, Indonesia held its largest ever single day election, combining parliamentary and presidential votes operated within 800,000 stations and 6 million workers, are a reflection of our commitment to a comprehensive election process. We are never one to take the election process lightly. It has always been a great contentment to us Indonesians to celebrate democracy with the participation of all and we do so with a profound sense of responsibility to ensure that our freedom of expression does not infringe upon the rights and freedoms of others nor disrupt the social cohesion that unites us all.

However, Mr. Chair, we regret to see that our hopes were not met during the deliberation of this resolution. At a time when democracy should prove itself to be beneficial for all, this resolution is showing otherwise. It is even more concerning that the diverting debate is not about the essence of democracy or election itself. Rather, the debate surrounds particular preferences that countries in this forum sees as dividing elements. Namely, reference to “sexual orientation and gender identity” and reference to “women in all their diversity.” Indonesia has constructively engaged throughout the process and proposed the deletion of such references, the same references that were highly contested in 2021. The proposal was sadly ignored, and resulted in countries standing in different positions on this draft resolution.

Participation in elections should be guaranteed to everyone without any conditionalities. With this understanding, we will support the amendment put forward by Egypt on behalf of the OIC and the amendment by the Russian Federation. And we will continue to put our reservation on references of “sexual orientation and gender identity” as well as “women in

all their diversity” as we question their relevance and the universality of their acceptance within the UN. I thank you.



Above: The representative of Indonesia supports the removal of language on “sexual orientation and gender identity” and “women in all their diversity.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Indonesia and give the floor to Chile.

Chile: Chair, Chile wishes to express its rejection to the amendments contained in L.67, L.68, and L.69. This leads to backsliding for countries who are in a vulnerable situation or excluded. The aim of this resolution is to ensure people’s freedom and participation in all aspects of civic matters including fair elections for its citizens. The resolution reaffirms the need to affirm the rights of women, persons with disabilities, marginalized persons, and those underrepresented in elections and in the vote. This addresses a gender aspect and creates more inclusive societies. That is why it is very important for references to persons—to groups who are vulnerable should stay in the resolution because those persons are more apt to have their rights denied and they are more frequently a victim with impunity. We reaffirm that there must be free election of representatives. In this



Above: The representative of Chile speaks against the amendments.

respect, it would be harmful for any group in a situation of vulnerability mentioned in the text for the General Assembly to not address them. That is why we will vote against the amendments. Thank you very much.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Chile and give the floor to Argentina.

Argentina: Thank you very much, Chair. Argentina wishes to explain our vote with regard to the amendments to limit diversity in the preambular para. 10 and in document 76 and preambular para. 12 and references to different types of discrimination such as under OP seven.

The application of international human rights norms that are guided by universality and non-discrimination. This is under article one of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. This principle of universality makes no exceptions; all have the right to have their human rights protected, and therefore the right to participate in public affairs. That must be guaranteed by states without any distinction.



Above: The representative of Argentina says, “No person should be denied their ability to participate in elections or in democracy on the basis of who they are.”

The specific mention of various types of discrimination affecting determined vulnerable groups under para. seven, this is crucial. States must provide effective guarantees against the various forms of discrimination to ensure that the rights of all are protected as under international law. The non-inclusion of diversity and the express list of forms of discrimination as under para. seven would weaken the resolution and it would mean backsliding for the international community. No person should be denied their ability to participate in elections

or in democracy on the basis of who they are. For these reasons Argentina will vote against amendments presented by groups of countries and urges delegations to vote against these amendments. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Argentina and give the floor to Egypt.

Egypt: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. And at the outset, I would like to thank the United States for taking the lead on this important resolution. We believe that free and fair elections are a cornerstone of any democratic process and we believe in democratic governance, including international democratic governance. We have engaged in the informals and the consultations on this draft resolution in good faith.

We have provided amendments and including those that were aimed at making it a better text for everybody since at the end of the day, the resolution itself becomes the ownership of the universal membership, not only the penholder of the resolution, and fortunately some of our amendments, the fine tweaking, were taken on board and we take note of that.

However, the crucial amendments and the continuous requests to open closed paragraphs that have controversial references has not been taken into consideration, despite the repeated calls. And this in itself is against a democratic process. On the amendment contained in document L.66, this is a language that Egypt in its national capacity has proposed to the penholder during the informal consultations in written format and in oral format. However, it did not make it to the final text unfortunately.



Above: The representative of Egypt speaks in favor of the amendment proposed by the Russian Federation.

In the context of elections and since the focus of this resolution is freedom of expression, we see it as very relevant to introduce this language because freedom of expression is not absolute. And in the context of elections, sometimes the advocacy to war or the advocacy to hate and hate speech and likewise advocacy needs to be restricted by law for the same purpose of saving the electoral process in itself and the election process in itself because as we see that some political campaigns in election processes do use such derogatory statements against certain groups in the community, for example, migrant communities in order to gain votes. And this implies that the election process and the political atmosphere is not conducive to democratic governance itself.

So we see this as very relevant. It is a language that we have originally proposed, and this is why we have co-sponsored the amendment in itself and we are voting in favor of that amendment. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt and give the floor to Australia.

Australia: Thank you, Chair. I have the honor to deliver this explanation of vote in relation to the three amendments tabled on behalf of a group of member states, L.67, L.68, and L.69, on behalf of seven countries, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, and my own country, Australia.

Our countries thank the United States for presenting this draft resolution and are pleased to co-sponsor it. We strongly support the resolution which recognizes the importance of fair periodic inclusive and genuine elections and the role of the UN in assisting member states to arrange them.

We welcome this year's focus on media freedom and the freedom of expression, both the fundamental parts of a vibrant democracy and a culture of accountability. We especially welcome the resolution's continued focus on inclusion. In many countries, particular groups faced barriers to participation in public and political life. These barriers can include unpaid care and domestic work, sexual and gender based violence, limited accessibility of polling stations, and practical illegal discrimination against vulnerable groups. For elections to be fully representative and therefore effective, citizens must be able to participate in them on an equal basis.

The resolution tabled by the facilitator contained a list in OP seven, unchanged from the text last adopted in 2021, which addressed all the groups that may be in vulnerable positions, and that are more likely to be discriminated against and hindered from participating in public and political life, in particular, elections. The amendments proposed today seek to change OP seven to exclude some key groups. By deleting certain groups, the amendments effectively suggests that some people can be discriminated against in electoral processes. A vote for the amendments is therefore a vote for discrimination.

The amendments again also seek to water down other key parts of the text adopted last time. If the amendments were adopted, they would weaken the resolution overall. For our delegations, it is of the utmost importance that the original list and OP seven containing the full range of grounds for discrimination be maintained. Therefore, we will vote against the three amendments and we encourage all member states to do the same. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Australia, on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, and Switzerland, says, “By deleting certain groups, the amendments effectively suggests that some people can be discriminated against in electoral processes. A vote for the amendments is therefore a vote for discrimination.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Australia and give the floor to Albania.

Albania: Thank you Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Albania is a traditional original co-sponsor of this resolution. Albania fully supports the text that has been introduced from the Permanent Mission of the United States and supports the view that individuals who are members of vulnerable groups and are more likely to be denied the right to free and fair elections or be victims of discriminatory acts carried out with impunity by governing authorities

should not be left out of the text of this resolution. Albania strongly believes that no one should be denied the right to freely choose representatives through free and fair elections because of their identity, including their gender identity. For these reasons, Albania did not join consensus within the OIC on the tabling of these amendments, and for these very same reasons Albania will vote against these amendments. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Albania says that Albania does not join consensus with the OIC on the proposed amendments, and that Albania will vote against the proposed amendments.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Albania and give the floor to Spain.

Spain: Thank you very much, chair. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the European Union and its member states. We regret the decision to present amendments on such an important resolution which aims at promoting democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. We welcome the inclusive language for the negotiation process.

Firstly, with regard to the amendment on document 67, this is based on the ICPD Programme of Action and Beijing Declaration Platform for Action. There needs to be specified, the theme that is under discussion, it is necessary and there is no value added to this. With regard to the amendment contained in L.67, we believe that with regard to the diversity of all women, this is a commitment that is long standing recognized in the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Declaration Platform for Action. Political systems cannot function properly if they are exclusionary. We reaffirm the EU’s commitment to work towards women and youths’ full equal meaningful participation in all their diversity in all spheres and levels of public and political life. At a moment of increased pressure on gender equality, it is

Chair: The Secretariat explains that during the first vote, there was no discrepancy. It was only afterwards when we proceeded to the interim period that, due to a malfunction—due to the fact that it was stuck—that there was a discrepancy there but it should be no problem now, and the previous numbers that were announced are also correct. I hope that we are now in a position to vote on the amendment contained in document L.67. Delegations are kindly requested to indicate their vote now.



Above: Vote on a proposed amendment to remove “in all their diversity” from the draft resolution. The amendment does not pass.

Chair: The result of the vote is as follows: In favor 61, against 84, abstention 7. The amendment to draft resolution L.51 contained in document L.67 is rejected.

The third vote was on a proposed amendment to remove a reference to the 2021 Resolution on Strengthening the Role of the United Nations in the Promotion of Democratization and Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections.

Chair: We will now commence with the process of voting on the amendment contained in document L.68. Again, in accordance with rule 128, do not interrupt the vote except on a point of order in connection with the process of voting. I hope we are ready to vote. Delegations are kindly requested to indicate their vote now.



Above: Vote on proposed amendment to remove a reference to the 2021 Resolution on Strengthening the Role of the United Nations in the Promotion of Democratization and Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections. The amendment does not pass.

Chair: The result of the vote is as follows: In favor 55, against 85, abstention 12. The amendment to draft resolution L.51 contained in document L.68 is rejected.

The fourth vote was on the proposed amendment to remove the words “sexual orientation and gender identity” from the draft resolution.

Chair: The committee now commences with the process of voting on the amendment contained in document L.69. Again, no interruption of the voting except on a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting. Delegations are requested to indicate their votes now.



Above: Vote on the proposed amendment to remove “sexual orientation and gender identity” from the draft resolution. The amendment does not pass.

Chair: The result of the vote is as follows: In favor 63, against 82, abstention 11. The amendment to draft resolution L.51 contained in document L.69 is rejected.

POST-VOTE STATEMENT ON THE AMENDMENTS

As is the general process, Member States were given an opportunity to make a general statement or explanation of their votes on the proposed amendments.

Chair: Does any delegation wish to make a general statement or an explanation of vote, after the vote, in connection with any or all of the amendments to draft resolution L.51 as contained in documents L.66, L.67, L.68, or L.69? I see Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have the honor to deliver this explanation on behalf of six countries, Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Switzerland, and my own country Liechtenstein, in relation to the amendment tabled by the Russian Federation, L.66. Our countries are state parties to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and committed to protecting and promoting the rights to freedom of expression. We strongly support the Covenant's language and framing of Civil and Political Rights. Unfortunately, this amendment misrepresents the intent of the Covenant regarding the right to freedom of expression, which is why we have voted against the amendment.

This amendment distorts the meaning and purpose of articles 19 and 20 of the covenant by selectively merging elements of the two articles. The amendment purports to mirror the covenant's restrictions on the right to freedom of expression but removed the Covenant's own limitations placed on those restrictions in article 19 subparagraphs 3A and 3B. These subparagraphs limit restrictions on the right to freedom of expression to two categories. One, restrictions for respect of the rights of reputations of others, and two, restrictions for the protection of national security, or public order, or public health or morals. Those restrictions must be provided by law and be necessary.

The absence of this language inaccurately characterizes the Covenant by widening the state's scope to restrict the rights to freedom of expression. Had the amendment reflected verbatim language from the Covenant we would have been able to consider it differently. We

cannot accept inaccurate language that would misinterpret the Covenant, especially in the context of this resolution, as the right to freedom of expression is a fundamental part of a vibrant democracy and the culture of transparency and accountability. I thank you.



Above: The representative of Liechtenstein, on behalf of Australia, Canada, Iceland, New Zealand, Switzerland, and Liechtenstein, explains its vote against the proposed amendment introduced by the Russian Federation.

VOTE ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION

The draft resolution, as a whole, was put to a vote on request of the Russian Federation (which ultimately abstained on the vote). The call for a vote on the resolution was a departure from 2021, when the resolution was passed by consensus.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Liechtenstein. That was the only comment after the amendments. Since the amendments contained in documents L.66 to L.69 were rejected, we shall now proceed to take a decision on draft resolution L.51 as a whole.

A recorded vote has been requested on draft resolution A/C.3/78/L51 entitled "Strengthening the Role of the United Nations in the Promotion of Democratization and Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections." Does any delegation wish to make a general statement or an explanation of vote before the vote in connection with draft resolution L.51? I see the United States.

United States of America: Thank you so much, Chair. Just a point of order. May I ask who requested the vote? Thank you.

Chair: Of course you may. The vote was requested by the Russian Federation. I give the floor to the Russian Federation.

PRE-VOTE STATEMENTS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION

Russian Federation: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Free elections are a key element of political life practically for all countries. They predetermine further life and development of the country, its political and state structures. In this connection, the Russian Federation attaches great importance to strengthening international cooperation with a view to organizing general direct periodic and genuine elections. We believe [inaudible] it's designed to assist states on the part of the UN in organizing electoral processes. It is for that purpose that it was designed initially to promoting and assisting states by the UN.



Above: The representative of the Russian Federation requests a vote on the resolution.

Unfortunately, year after year, this resolution has diverted from its original goal and has become filled with ambiguous, oftentimes confrontational concepts that are not directly related either to elections or assistance in organizing elections by the UN. This year, unfortunately, the situation has repeated itself. We support many of the elements including new elements included by the co-sponsors in the text. At the same time, other elements we believe to be unbalanced. We've tried to balance this resolution through negotiations and by submitting an amendment which unfortunately was rejected. In this context and because some of the concepts are not universally internationally recognized, such as sexual orientation and gender identity, they've been returned to the text. We asked for a vote and we will be forced to abstain. Thank you very much.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Russia and give the floor to Liechtenstein.

Liechtenstein: Thank you, Mr. Chair, just to add my delegation to the list of co-sponsors. Thank you very much.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Liechtenstein and give the floor to Iran.

Iran: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to deliver an explanation of his position with regard to the draft resolution L.51.

In the Islamic Republic of Iran, tens of elections have been held over the past four decades with a large turnout of voters and hundreds of millions of votes being cast by the people. In Iran, the right of people to vote in the elections, including in presidential, parliamentary, and urban or rural elections is observed. And the participation of all without distinction of any kind is fully guaranteed. The elections are held in a situation where a broad spectrum of political thoughts and parties are engaged. Holding elections with the presence of all the tastes of people and within the framework of the constituent constitution in the country is truly a grand and epic display of democracy.

Consequently, my delegation strongly supports the essence concept of the resolution as reflected in the resolution title, but unfortunately, and not surprisingly, the United States, the pen holder has chosen to follow its narrow political agenda to impose its values on other UN members while ignoring the divergence of the views emanating from significant national and even regional particularities as well as various historical, cultural, and religious backgrounds and legal frameworks. Yet again, a noble cause was misused in a political manner by the United States by exploiting the UN platform and its principal organs. This tension-filled meeting is a result of the facilitator's unjustifiable approach to closing paragraphs that received a number of objections in the previous adoption round in 2021. If there had been no intention to hijack the subject of democracy and elections to impose non agreed language, then all countries' positions should have been respected and taken into account in a balanced manner.

In view of the above, my delegation voted in favor of all four amendments aiming at a balance in the text and will abstain from voting on the entire resolution. Iran reiterates its principal position on objecting to any non-consensus based and controversial language included in the UN documents that lacks any common 27

understanding among the member states. Due to this, we disassociate ourselves from the preambular paragraph 10 and 12 and operative paragraph seven. We also understand that freedom of expression brings with it duties and responsibilities according to the ICCPR.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the commitment of my delegation to the promotion of democratic elections worldwide. I thank you.



Above: The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran explains Iran's decision to abstain from voting on the draft resolution.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Iran and give the floor to Colombia.

Colombia: Thank you very much, chair. We thank the United States for presenting once again, a resolution on strengthening the role of the UN and promoting fair and just elections and democratization in the General Assembly. We regret that this was brought to a vote.

We promote universality based on the free will of the people and free participation in all public matters, including in fair and just elections for all citizens. The resolution reaffirms the need to promote the rights of all women and girls, persons with disabilities and other citizens who are marginalized or underrepresented in political life and voting, enabling gender perspective in political institutions and to ensure more inclusive societies for Colombia.

The inclusion of "women in all their diversity" means that we women are not homogeneous. And therefore, this reality must be taken into account. Rural women without access to the internet should have the same ability to participate in elections as urban women. Is that a reality? There are those who have no access to education or minimal access to education and structural barriers to basic aspects such as voting. These women too are

women in all their diversity and Colombia will make sure that they are not made invisible.

In addition, the new drafting mentions the freedom of expression and means of communication in election phases.

We would welcome to keep previous texts and important paragraphs on those belonging to marginalized groups. OP seven is critical. It underscores this important matter and we firmly support this paragraph. No voters should be denied their right to vote and the free elections should take place. Colombia will continue to reject any discrimination on any basis including on the basis of sexual orientation or identity. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Colombia speaks in favor of the resolution, including language on "women in all their diversity" and the listing in operative paragraph seven.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Colombia and give the floor to Denmark.

Denmark: Mr. Chair, Denmark fully supports this resolution that promotes the universality of democratic values based on the free will of people and their full participation in all aspects of public affairs, including the need for free and fair elections. However, some of the amendments that we have just voted on goes against this very principle. We also regret that this resolution has now been called to a vote.

Mr. Chair, throughout history, countless individuals, groups and communities have engaged in struggles to ensure that every citizen regardless of their identity, or background, can participate in a democratic process. These movements have left a mark on our understanding of democracy and equality, a mark that underscores this simple notion of democracies: that no one can be left behind, no matter who they are. Mr. Chair, it will send 28

POST-VOTE STATEMENTS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION

As is the general practice, member states were given an opportunity to make an explanation of their votes or a general statement.

Chair: Does any delegation wish to make an explanation of vote or a general statement after the vote on the draft resolution? I give the floor to Oman.

Oman: Thank you very much, Chair. We are honored to speak on behalf of the countries of the Gulf Cooperation that is the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and my own country Oman. The countries of our group thank the facilitators of the present resolution. Throughout the negotiations, the states in our group have voted or abstained from voting on this draft resolution because we believe firmly of the importance of this matter. However, when it comes to paragraph seven, and the wording therein, this does not align with our national legislations. That's why we have a reservation on this paragraph, OP seven, and any wording that is not the subject of consensus. We would like for this statement to be kept for the record. Thank you.



Above: The diplomat of Oman, speaking on behalf of the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and Oman, submits a reservation to language in paragraph seven.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Oman and give the floor to Peru.

Peru: Chair, Peru wishes to thank the United States for presenting this important resolution. We have co-sponsored this, once again, reaffirming our commitment to democratic principles. This resolution highlights and

strengthens common values such as respect for the people to freely participate in electoral processes. Peru reiterates its commitment to fostering an inclusive and participatory democracy that guarantees equal voice and vote for all citizens.

The resolution that we have adopted reaffirms that the UN must continue to provide electoral assistance in an objective, impartial, neutral, and independent way, and this must be done on a case-by-case basis for requesting countries in line with their evolving needs and their legislation. Peru believes it is important to note that all civil servants in the UN system must carry out their duties strictly complying with the resolutions of the General Assembly of the UN and regards electoral assistance in the framework of the specific convention to that end. Peru reaffirms its commitment to democracy and holding of transparent free and just and fair electoral processes.



Above: The representative of Peru "reiterates its commitment to fostering an inclusive and participatory democracy that guarantees equal voice and vote for all citizens."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Peru and give the floor to Malaysia.

Malaysia: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Malaysia is committed towards the promotion and protection of democratic institutions and democratic principles, as well as the rule of law with regard to the electoral process. These principles are enshrined in our federal constitution. We continue to undertake efforts to improve and strengthen our governance system.

As a young nation of 66 years, Malaysia continuously introduces democratic reforms. We fully recognize the need for and value of inclusive and participatory governance. Recent initiatives in this regard include the automatic registration of voters effective end of 2021

as well as the amendment of the federal constitution to lower the voting age of citizens from 21 years old to 18 years old. These efforts resulted in more than 1.3 million youths between the age of 18 to 20 years old being eligible to cast their votes for the first time at the recent 15th general elections at the end of last year.

Turning to the resolution just adopted, Malaysia has always been a supporter of this resolution since it was first introduced. We even co-sponsored this resolution in the past. However, since the previous iteration of this text two years ago, the resolution began featuring non-consensual terminologies which are inconsistent with our position, and thus prevented us from maintaining our co-sponsorship of the text.

Malaysia supported the amendments table to the resolution today, as they are drawn from agreed language within the UN fora as well as existing international instruments. Those amendments were an honest attempt to reach a text that can be supported by all member states on a crucial issue, as was the case prior to 2021. We reject any assertions that the amendments are hostile as the paragraphs of concern were deliberately not open for discussion.

In this regard, Malaysia wishes to put on record its reservations on and dissociation from the terms “in all their diversity” in preambular paragraph 10 and “sexual orientation and gender identity” and operative paragraph seven. In line with our earnest belief in democratic principles, Malaysia decided to vote in favor of the resolution. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Malaysia submits reservations and dissociations from the terms “in all their diversity” and “sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Malaysia and give the floor to Senegal.

Senegal: Mr. Chair, Senegal would like to thank the United States of America for facilitating negotiations on this resolution L.51. We are committed to democratic culture and rule of law and reaffirm our endorsement of democracy as the cornerstone of participation of all in political life. For that reason, my delegation has joined the consensus on this resolution.

My delegation also supported the amendments tabled by Egypt with regard to preambular 10 and operative paragraph seven to reiterate our opposition to the use of certain non-consensual terms, specifically sexual orientation and gender identity. We supported the amendments with a view to reaching a consensual text accepted by all with language that would be universally approved and would not be counter to the scientific concepts accepted by this organization and in my country.

My delegation would like to emphasize the fact that the concept of gender identity and all of the related concepts have to do only and entirely with relations between man and woman. We regret that the facilitating delegation has declined to reopen the text and my delegation would like this statement to be reflected in the verbatim statement. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Senegal says, “The concept of gender identity and all of the related concepts have to do only and entirely with relations between man and woman.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Senegal and give the floor to China.

China: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, democracy represents a shared value for humanity. China supports the UN in responding to member states’ requests while fully respecting their sovereignty to provide technical support and assistance to their democratic elections.



Above: The representative of China disassociates from paragraphs containing language on human rights defenders.

China reiterates that the term “human rights defender” lacks a globally uniform and universally recognized definition with a legal basis. Countries have different views on who are human rights defenders. China opposes the inclusion of concepts in the draft resolution, about which there is no consensus at the UN and opposes using the phrase human rights defender.

The proponent insisted on using non-consensual language at multiple places and the draft resolution, ignoring reasonable proposals made repeatedly by China and many other countries. The way the proponent conducted the consultations was not democratic at all. It runs counter to the purpose of this resolution and is regrettable. We call upon the proponent to be democratic, inclusive, and transparent in facilitating future consultations to help forge consensus among parties. For the reasons stated above, China voted in abstention on the resolution and disassociated itself from the consensus on paragraphs containing human rights defenders. I thank you, Chair.

Chair: I thank China and give the floor to Mexico.

Mexico: Thank you very much, Chair. My delegation voted in favor of this resolution, as we believe firmly that support of the United Nations and promoting democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections is invaluable. Democracy is considered as the most effective way of governance to ensure that all persons live in harmony.

In a democracy, the participation of all citizens is the factor that brings about change. In this respect, we are pleased that the text of the present resolution makes express reference to various situations or characteristics

of persons. Some sectors of the population might be discriminated against in electoral processes and these are mentioned including multiple forms of discrimination. The aim is for member states to adopt measures to avoid this. Accordingly, we welcome with satisfaction the inclusion of references to links between free and fair elections, the freedom of expression, and freedom and independence of the press as cornerstones of democracy.

Lastly, and no less important, we welcome that the resolution recognizes that women and girls, including adolescents, take on a disproportionate amount of unpaid care work. This impacts their full and effective and equal participation and meaningful participation in decision-making in public life. Likewise, we note the importance of OP 11 which calls for action in light of this situation. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Mexico says: “Some sectors of the population might be discriminated against in electoral processes and these are mentioned including multiple forms of discrimination.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Mexico and now we will go to Spain.

Spain: Thank you. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the EU and its member states. Firstly, we wish to thank the United States for its work on this important resolution. This is important. It is particularly important that the text this year gives special attention to the connections between safeguarding of democracy and protection of the free expression of ideas and opinions.

The EU is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. These values are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. They also form the basis for the EU’s own work on democracy.



Above: The representative of Spain, on behalf of the EU, explains the importance of the UN Democracy Fund and its connection to this resolution.

The European Democracy Action Plan is designed to empower citizens and build more resilient democracies across the EU by promoting free and fair elections, strengthening media freedom, and countering disinformation.

We live in a changing world, however, and must adapt to new and emerging challenges to democracy. This year's resolution shines light on one of these challenges, namely the growing threats to freedom of expression and media freedom worldwide. This comes in many forms with perhaps the most egregious example being harassment, attacks, unlawful detention of journalists and media workers. Also during electoral processes, the spread of disinformation on social media is another such challenge. For these reasons we look forward to the development by the UN of a voluntary code of conduct for information integrity on digital platforms.

It is important to note that the text also builds on lessons learned from COVID-19 and recognizes that unpaid care and domestic work has a disproportionate impact on women and girls ability to participate in decision-making and public life in a full, effective, equal, and meaningful manner.

Chair, the resolution we have just adopted plays an important role in strengthening the work of the UN system including the UN Democracy Fund, in promoting democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. There is clearly a demand, from 2021 to 2023, the UN has either at the request of the country concerned or on the basis of a Security Council mandate provided support to more than 60 states and territories. This means providing technical assistance and engagement for enhancing the capacity of national electoral

authorities and promoting inclusive electoral processes. A long list of member states contribute to this work with financing but also with personnel and expertise and a long list of member states benefit from it. We are glad that the resolution highlights this reality. And we very much look forward to continuing working closely together with all member states towards making this support possible. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the representative from Spain and give the floor to Costa Rica.

Costa Rica: Thank you Chair. Costa Rica thanks the United States for presenting once again, before this Third Committee, the biennial resolution on strengthening the role of the UN in promoting democracy and enhancing periodic and genuine elections.

Democracy is a value and a universal aspiration. It is intrinsically linked to human rights. It is based on self-determination of peoples. It proclaims the imperative of the full participation of human beings and public affairs, including the need for free, transparent and fair elections for all. My country fully supports this premise. This is at the heart of the resolution that we have adopted, and that is why we have firmly supported the text as a co-sponsor, initially, and we rejected amendments that we believe are hostile to the process, as well as to the substance.

Costa Rica welcomes the additions made to the current text. This includes the nexus between freedom of expression and freedom of the press. Likewise, we are pleased that the draft L.51, which was adopted, reaffirms the imperative of ensuring gender equality as a prerequisite to democracy. Moreover, this is for all persons without any distinction, especially those who are marginalized or in a vulnerable situation. The principle of leaving no one behind as under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is part and parcel of democracy. No person who was able to vote can be denied their supreme right to participate on equal footing in transparent and fair elections and to freely elect their representatives. Given situations of discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion, we have the obligation of doing our utmost to correct any inequalities. That is why Costa Rica supports, unreservedly, operative paragraph seven, which is important in this resolution.

We regret that amendments have been introduced as this tries to weaken the language and this affects persons whose rights are violated who are excluded or marginalized and who aspire to peace, justice and inclusion. We applaud the decision of the GA to continue to move towards effective and full democracies where all voices are heard and valued in equal dignity. Thank you very much.



Above: The representative of Costa Rica says, "Given situations of discrimination, marginalization, and exclusion, we have the obligation of doing our utmost to correct any inequalities. That is why Costa Rica supports, unreservedly, operative paragraph seven, which is important in this resolution."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative from Costa Rica and give the floor to Japan.

Japan: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My delegation welcomes the adoption of Resolution L.51 as a co-sponsor. My delegation would also like to thank the US for facilitating and tabling this resolution, which is important for the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections.

The focus of this year's resolution is on the protection of media freedom in the elections, and none of the proposed amendments were in line with the purposes



Above: The representative of Japan speaks against the four amendments.

of this resolution. These amendments did not reflect the discussions of the informal meetings at all. The amendment, L.66, disregarded the importance of the media in supporting genuine elections and unduly weakens the meaning of the text. Each amendment of L.67, 68, and 69 sought to amend the agreed language on points unrelated to this year's revised parts. My delegation therefore voted against the amendment and, again, welcomes the adoption of this resolution. I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative from Japan and give the floor to the United Republic of Tanzania.

United Republic of Tanzania: Thank you Chair. My delegation wishes to thank the United States of America for presenting this resolution. Tanzania acknowledges the crucial role that free elections play in promoting democracy and human rights.



Above: The representative of the United Republic of Tanzania disassociates from the terms "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity."

While we support the aim of this resolution, we note with regret the inclusion of some terminologies that have not enjoyed consensus in the wider membership of the UN. We view the promotion of sexual orientation and gender identity as a tool to advance highly controversial ideological gender that disregard the national laws, values, and customs of a large number of the United Nations member states.

Cognizant of the importance of the elections, we voted in favor of the resolution as a whole. However, we cannot accept the terms "sexual orientation and gender identity" and "women in all their diversities." We are compelled to disassociate from these terminologies. I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative from the United Republic of Tanzania and give the floor to Hungary.

Hungary: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Hungary aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. Hungary affirms its commitment to the protection and promotion of democratization, rule of law, and general elections. Accordingly, Hungary voted yes to the resolution.

Nevertheless, we'd like to take this opportunity to put on record opposition concerning preambular paragraph 10, which contains the term diversity and recall that Hungary interprets diversity in a cultural, religious, and linguistic context as opposed to any different interpretation of the term. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Hungary says that the term diversity is understood by Hungary “in a cultural, religious, and linguistic context as opposed to any different interpretation of the term.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Hungary and give the floor to the Federated States of Micronesia.

Federated States of Micronesia: Thank you, Chair. Micronesia is glad to co-sponsor this resolution and is grateful to the United States for presenting this biennial resolution on Strengthening the Role of the UN in Promoting Free and Fair Elections and Democratization in this Committee. The resolution aims to promote the universal values of democracy, based on the free will of the people, and their full participation in all aspects of public affairs. It also emphasizes the need for free and fair elections for all citizens.

Micronesia’s Constitution guarantees the protection of the rights of all its citizens, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. Moreover, there is a need to promote the rights of marginalized and underrepresented groups, such as women, girls, and

persons with disabilities, in political participation and voting. The resolution seeks to reaffirm this commitment.

The new topic that is addressed this year, which involves minor additions to the 2021 resolution, is about the connection between freedom of expression and media freedom during all stages of elections. We wholeheartedly support these additions and are honored to be co-sponsors of the resolution.

I am pleased to note that the previously agreed-upon language has been retained in the text, which includes important paragraphs on marginalized groups. Individuals belonging to such groups are often deprived of their right to free and fair elections and fall prey to discriminatory acts carried out with impunity by those in power. Therefore, I strongly support OP seven, which is a crucial paragraph that emphasizes this important issue. Micronesia strongly believes that every voter has the right to participate in free and fair elections without any discrimination based on their background or identity. If the General Assembly decides not to take into account the marginalization or vulnerable situation of any group mentioned in the text, it would send a dangerous message to all vulnerable groups. We are disappointed that certain amendments were tabled as an attempt to weaken this language, but we are relieved that they were not adopted. Thank you.



Above: The representative of the Federated States of Micronesia says, “Micronesia strongly believes that every voter has the right to participate in free and fair elections without any discrimination based on their background or identity. If the General Assembly decides not to take into account the marginalization or vulnerable situation of any group mentioned in the text, it would send a dangerous message to all vulnerable groups.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of the Federated States of Micronesia and I'll give the floor to Singapore.

Singapore: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My delegation is taking the floor and an explanation of the vote on the resolution just adopted entitled Strengthening the Role of the United Nations in Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections and the Promotion of Democratization. We thank the United States for presenting this important resolution again this year.

Singapore voted in favor of the resolution because we recognize and value the importance of fair, periodic, and genuine elections for effective, transparent, and accountable governance. However, we continue to have reservations on several paragraphs in the resolution, which we feel do not advance the aims and objectives of the text.



Above: The representative of Singapore expresses reservations to the term “in all their diversity” and the listing in operative paragraph seven.

First with reference to PP 10 of the resolution, Singapore expresses reservations on the continued use of the phrase “in all their diversity,” which has no agreed definition and lacks consensus in the Third Committee. The number of delegations which voted in favor of the amendment to remove this reference illustrates this point. The continued use of such unclear terminology will only distract from the objective of the resolution and the paragraphs in question, which is to work towards the full public participation of all citizens.

Second, with reference to OP seven of the resolution, Singapore expresses reservations on the listing in the paragraph. The list continues to unnecessarily include references to categories that are contentious to many delegations in respect of their national context and laws. We regret that more comprehensive and consensual formulations to oppose discrimination in the right to participate in public affairs continued to be omitted from this year’s texts.

Finally, with reference to OP nine of the resolution, we would like to clarify that under Singapore law, persons with disabilities can, upon their request, be assisted during voting, but only by a presiding officer who shall mark the ballot paper in the manner directed by the voter and is under oath to keep the vote secret.

Mr. Chair, we look forward to contributing actively and constructively in future negotiations of this resolution to reach a more balanced outcome that can be supported by all delegations. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Singapore and I’ll give the floor to Belarus.

Belarus: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We recognize the importance and relevance of the subject of this resolution, we share its lofty goals and principles, so Belarus voted in favor. However, we must disassociate ourselves from paragraph 10 of the preamble and operative paragraph seven because the text retains language that do not enjoy universal support among UN member states.



Above: The representative of Belarus disassociates from paragraph ten and operative paragraph seven, and states, “It’s clear that issues of gender related problems do not meet with consensus and imposing on delegations a certain gender ideology introduces division in the General Assembly.”

The firm and consistent position of Belarus on the need to use, in UN documents, only agreed language is well known. Using consensus language only in resolutions is, to us, a condition for retaining the fragile balance of the interests of all delegations and general consensus on such significant issues as the one considered here. The results of the vote on the amendments, and Belarus was one of the co-sponsors of the amendments, speak for themselves. Once again, it’s clear that issues of gender-related problems do not meet with consensus

and imposing on delegations a certain gender ideology introduces division in the General Assembly.

Belarus remains committed to strengthening the role of the UN in democratization and holding periodic and genuine elections. We will continue constructive cooperation with all those interested in promoting this. Thank you very much.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Belarus and I'll give the floor to Nigeria.

Nigeria: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My delegation recognizes the importance of this resolution, or inasmuch as Nigeria remains unwavering commitment to promoting and upholding the processes of governance that is firmly anchored on democratic principles and the rule of law as well as ensuring inclusiveness in electoral processes without discrimination.

We find it deeply concerning that attempts by some member states to introduce the notion of sexual orientation and gender identity, which is neither universally accepted nor legally accurate under an international law, continue to weaken consensus and make a mockery of our collective effort to strengthen the pillars of democratization processes, in spite of the commitment of all member states to uphold the fundamental principle.

Therefore, my delegation supports all the amendments and disassociates from operative paragraph seven of the resolution and request that this statement be included in the record of this meeting. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Nigeria disassociates from operative paragraph seven due to language on "sexual orientation and gender identity."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Nigeria and I'll give the floor to Montenegro.

Montenegro: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Montenegro proudly supports the resolution on strengthening the role of the United Nations in promoting democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. As a nation committed to democratic principles, Montenegro aligns itself with the values articulated in the resolution and commends the efforts of the United States in bringing forth this important initiative.



Above: The representative of Montenegro "endorses the resolution's emphasis on the inclusion of all women and girls in election processes, promoting gender-responsive political institutions, and fostering a more inclusive society."

Montenegro firmly believes in the universality of democratic values as articulated in the free will of the people and their full participation in public affairs through free and fair elections. We recognize the crucial role played by the UN electoral systems division in assisting democracies and countries undergoing democratization in establishing clear and sustainable national electoral systems.

Our commitment to democratic ideals extends to the importance of inclusion, and the recognition of the need for the full participation of all citizens in political processes. Montenegro endorses the resolution's emphasis on the inclusion of all women and girls in election processes, promoting gender-responsive political institutions, and fostering a more inclusive society. Montenegro looks forward to continued collaboration of the international community to strengthen the UN's role in enhancing elections and promoting democracy. I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Montenegro and I'll give the floor to Ethiopia.

Ethiopia: Thank you, chair. Ethiopia promotes democracy and upholds free, fair periodic elections as recognized in our Constitution. Ethiopia acknowledges the role of the United Nations in this regard. I'm taking the floor to explain my delegation's stance.

We express regret regarding the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in operative paragraph seven of the current resolution, despite the persistent objection from numerous delegations. These terms lack international consensus and widely accepted legal meaning due to their inherent ambiguity and subjective nature. Consequently, my delegation disassociates from the mentioned terminologies in OP seven.

Similarly, Chair, my delegation wants to distance itself from the reference "in all their diversity" in PP nine. This phrase, once again, is ambiguous and susceptible to interpretation. My delegation will not endorse any interpretation of this term that encompasses concepts not recognized in our national laws and policies. I thank you, Chair.



Above: The representative of Ethiopia disassociates from the language "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Ethiopia and I'll give the floor to Yemen.

Yemen: Thank you, Chair. We thank the United States for having initiated this draft resolution regarding the role of the UN and promoting democratization and the organization of elections. We have voted in favor of the resolution based on our commitment to democracy.

We regret, however, that the amendments were not included. They proposed already agreed language. Women and all their diversity in preambular 10 is a wording that has prevented a number of delegations

from supporting it. Also operative seven, gender identity and sexual orientation, all of these expressions have prevented consensus from emerging here. We disassociate ourselves from these expressions: sexual identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and "women in all their diversity" because these are not consensual language. They were put forward in previous years without success. This kind of language is not in keeping with the laws of my country, as well as our culture and religion and therefore we cannot accept that terminology. So once again, we disassociate ourselves from these nonconsensual phrases and voting in favor of the resolution is not accepting this language. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Yemen disassociates from the expressions "sexual identity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and women in all their diversity," arguing that this language is not in keeping with Yemen's laws, culture, and religion.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Yemen and I'll give the floor to Brazil.

Brazil: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Brazil fully supports and is a proud sponsor of the important resolution just adopted. We wish to thank the delegation of the United States for presenting the text and for the facilitation of negotiations.

This year's text highlights the importance of protecting the integrity of electoral processes, the importance of free and independent media, the need to combat misinformation and disinformation, and the need to protect the right to freedom of expression. Those are all key elements in the promotion of democratic values and to ensuring transparent, free, and fair electoral processes.

This year's resolution also addresses a paramount issue, the link between democracy and the prevention and elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance. In this regard, Brazil thanks all the delegations that supported our proposal.



Above: The representative of Brazil says, “Brazil understands that by recognizing women in all their diversity and by including references to sexual orientation and gender identity, we are applying the principle of equality to human rights practice and combating all forms of discrimination.”

Mr. Chair, along with new elements, this resolution retains issues that are crucial to promoting democratic values into ensuring transparent, free and fair electoral processes. In particular, those related to the elimination of discrimination in all its forms and ensuring equal participation. As the report by the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity points out, overall figures related to violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons remain high and concerning. Brazil understands that by recognizing women in all their diversity and by including references to sexual orientation and gender identity, we are applying the principle of equality to human rights practice and combating all forms of discrimination.

In conclusion, in line with Brazil’s Federal Constitution, we reaffirm our commitment to the promotion of democracy, rule of law, and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and stand ready to continue cooperating with collective efforts to that end, and I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Brazil and I’ll give the floor to the Dominican Republic.

Dominican Republic: Thank you very much, sir. We thank the United States for having presented once again, the resolution on strengthening the role of the UN in promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections. We are honored to have co-sponsored this resolution.

We firmly support this resolution because we recognize that democracy is a fundamental pillar of any society.

We believe in the importance of guaranteeing electoral processes that are transparent and fair. In supporting this resolution, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles of democracy, equal rights, and inclusion. This is conducive to sustainable development and peace. We reaffirm our commitment to fostering democratic processes at the global level, recognizing the role played by the UN, in supporting member states along their democratic trajectories.

Genuine elections are not just symbolic, they are the foundation for stable states and empower citizens, ensuring that their voices are heard and that their decisions are respected. This resolution reaffirms our dedication to maintaining the principles of democracy, development and the rule of law, underscoring the importance of transparent, inclusive and fair elections free of any manipulation, coercion, or any other manipulation.



Above: The representative of the Dominican Republic speaks in support of the resolution.

We respect the fundamental rights of each citizen to participate significantly, meaningfully, in democratic processes regardless of their race, gender, political position, etc. This is a fundamental requisite for a genuine democracy.

The resolution sets out principles in our digital era, focusing on challenges posed by disinformation, hate speech and matters that affect our democracies. It also strengthens the role of the UN in promoting democratization. We must ensure that the freedom of expression, freedom of the media, and journalists are protected. We support the particular emphasis placed in this resolution on these.

We welcome that addressing women is essential to democratization and to have genuine periodic

elections. To strengthen their voices in elections is important. But to do this, we must do away with barriers to their participation in public life. Thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of the Dominican Republic and I'll give the floor to Niger.

Niger: Mr. Chairman, my delegation, having voted in favor of this resolution that we just adopted, would like to make some explanations after the vote. We supported the various amendments proposed to the resolution and we disassociate ourselves from the expression "women in all their diversity" included in the text of the resolution. We reaffirm that the issue of sexual orientation and gender identity are not included in the international human rights law. Neither conventional law, nor international customs and traditions offer specific protections for people on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation that they themselves define and we disassociate ourselves from these expressions. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Niger disassociates from the terms "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Niger and I'll give the floor to Liberia.

Liberia: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My delegation appreciates the United States for once again, presenting the biennial resolution on strengthening the role of the United Nations in promoting free and fair elections and democratization.

The aim of this resolution is to promote the universality of democratic values based on the free will of the people and their full participation in all aspects of public affairs, including the need for free and fair elections for citizens. The resolution reaffirms the need to promote the rights of all women and girls, persons with disabilities, and other citizens who are marginalized or underrepresented in political participation and voting, allowing for gender

mainstreaming within political institutions and the creation of more inclusive societies.

This year's new topic, which is addressed by the minor additions to the 2021 resolution focuses on the nexus between freedom of expression and media freedom during all stages of elections. My delegation strongly supported these additions, and we co-sponsored the text.

In addition to the new language, we are also glad to see the previously agreed language remain in the text, including the important paragraphs on persons belonging to marginalized groups. Individuals who are members of marginalized groups are more likely to be denied the right to vote in fair elections and are also more often victims of discriminatory acts carried out with impunity by governing authorities. To this end, OP seven is a critical paragraph that underscores this important topic and my delegation strongly supports it. No voter should be denied the right to freely choose representatives to free and fair elections because of who they are.

In conclusion, it will send a dangerous message to all vulnerable group mentioned in the text if the General Assembly decided their marginalization or vulnerable situation does not warrant attention. To this end, we are disappointed that amendments were tabled in an attempt to weaken this language, but we are grateful that they were not adopted. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Liberia says, "Individuals who are members of marginalized groups are more likely to be denied the right to vote in fair elections and are also more often victims of discriminatory acts carried out with impunity by governing authorities...No voter should be denied the right to freely choose representatives to free and fair elections because of who they are."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Liberia and I'll give the floor to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

Netherlands: Thank you, chair. The Kingdom of the Netherlands aligns itself with the EU statements. From a national perspective and as co-chair of the LGBTI core group, we congratulate the US on successful adoption of this resolution, despite unfortunately being called to vote for political reasons.

We fully support the aim of the resolution to promote the universality of democratic values based on free will of the people and the full participation in all aspects of public affairs, including the need for free and fair elections for all citizens. I emphasize the word “all” given the unsuccessful amendments that have been presented today. If successful, the resolution would have ignored those that need protection the most, including LGBTI persons. And let’s be clear, this is not a theoretical exercise. These references actually matter because they reflect the reality of the violence and discrimination that persons face in participating in political processes because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, and despite the many statements that we heard today to the contrary, UN human rights treaty bodies actually have consistently reaffirmed that international human rights law applies equally to all persons, and that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected from discrimination under international human rights law.

Therefore, the Kingdom of Netherlands welcomes that this resolution once again reaffirms that LGBTI persons cannot and should not be discriminated. Thank you.



Above: The representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands says, “UN human rights treaty bodies actually have consistently reaffirmed that international human rights law applies equally to all persons, and that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected from discrimination under international human rights law.”

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and I’ll give the floor to Algeria.

Algeria: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The constitution of Algeria stipulates that the fundamental law is above all, guarantees the rights as well as individual and collective freedoms, protects the principle of the people’s willingness, confers legitimacy to the exercise of power, and establishes democratic continuation through periodic, free, and regular elections.



Above: The representative of Algeria disassociates from paragraphs containing “in all their diversity” and “sexual orientation and gender identity.”

In the past, Algeria had regularly sponsored the resolution because of its deep interest towards the spirit and the letter of the text dealing, inter alia with the important role of the United Nations in enhancing elections and promoting democratization. But unfortunately, since the 76 UNGA session, the draft resolution started to focus on some non-internationally agreed concepts, which are not in line with our cultural and social values. Therefore, Algeria disassociates itself from preambular paragraph 10, and operative paragraph seven as they contain controversial terms that are not representing an agreed language.

However, believing in the democratic values and in the fact that the essence and objective the resolution are the common denominator of member states, Algeria has voted in favor of the text as a whole, I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Algeria and I’ll give the floor to France.

France: Thank you Mr. Chairman. France supports the statement read on behalf of the EU and would like to make the following statement in its national capacity.

We thank the US for having brought to us this important resolution. It recalls the importance to preserve democracy, to protect the freedom of expression.

This right involves the right to research, receive and spread information and ideas through any means. This is paramount for protecting democracy and free press is a sine qua non condition. There's no democracy without free information. We believe that promoting and protecting free press, independent and pluralistic press is essential. It's essential that this resolution takes into account the crucial role of journalists. They can't be prevented from doing their work nor threatened or subjected to violence.

France would like to recall, here, its opposition to all forms of discrimination, including discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. All persons must have the same protection, same opportunities without discrimination. Based on international human rights law, LGBT+ persons must, like any other person, participate in democratic life, and thus take part in the electoral process without any discrimination. This resolution simply reminds us of that fact. It's not acceptable that any person should be excluded from democratic life because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We must leave no one behind, thank you.



Above: The representative of France says, "It's not acceptable that any person should be excluded from democratic life because of their sexual orientation or gender identity."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of France and I'll give the floor to Uganda.

Uganda: My delegation is taking the floor and explanation of position after the adoption of the resolution contained in document L.51. Uganda attaches great importance to strengthening international cooperation to ensure the conduct of democratic, periodic, and genuine elections. Hence why we voted in favor of the adoption of this resolution.



Above: The representative of Uganda disassociates from "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" language.

However, as a co-sponsor of the oral amendments presented by Egypt on behalf of the OIC, we take the floor to disassociate from preambular paragraph 10 and operative paragraph seven of said resolution. These paragraphs reference language including "women in all their diversity" and sexual orientation and gender identity, which is not in line with our religious, social, and cultural values. We strongly oppose the inclusion of these contentious terms of a fluid and subjective character that are not internationally agreed and, more importantly, do not align with our national legislations. Therefore, we do not accept them. We kindly request our statement to be included in the official records of this meeting.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Uganda and I'll give the floor to Sudan.

Sudan: Thank you, Chair. My delegation is taking the floor on explanation of position on the adoption of the resolution strengthening the role of United Nations in the Promotion of Democratization and Enhancing Periodic and Genuine Elections. Sudan voted in favor of the resolution contained in A/C.3/78/L.51. We concur the noble causes and essence values highlighted and recognized in the resolution.

Sudan reaffirms its commitment to uphold the values of democracy, the rule of law and the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal footing between women and men, mindful that there is no one single model for democracy and reaffirming the necessity of the full respect of sovereignty, national laws, and social and cultural values. Therefore, Sudan co-sponsored and voted in favor of the amendments contained in L.67, L.68, and L.69.

We can't go along and accept controversial and non-consensual terms, such as "in all their diversity" in operative paragraph ten, and sexual orientation and gender identity contained in OP seven. However, since these languages are inserted, despite calling for its deletion, we declare our disassociation from the above-mentioned paragraphs. We kindly ask the Secretariat to include Sudan's position in the meeting records. Thank you.



Above: The representative of Sudan disassociates from "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" language.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Sudan and I'll give the floor to Pakistan.

Pakistan: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My delegation has taken the floor to make an explanation of vote after the vote on L.51. Free and fair elections are a cornerstone of democratic process. In Pakistan, we have a robust parliamentary democracy and free and fair elections are periodically held in the country. General Elections in the country are scheduled on 8 February 2024. We thank the delegation of the United States for presenting this important resolution.



Above: The representative of Pakistan disassociates from "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" language.

However, we note with regret that despite lack of agreement, non-consensual language and controversial terms, which are not recognized under international law, continue to be kept in PP 10 and OP seven of the resolution. These terms are also not recognized by the domestic laws of Pakistan. Mr. Chair, while we voted in favor of the resolution, my delegation will disassociate from PP 10 and seven of the resolution. It is requested that our explanation of vote may be made part of the official record of the proceedings of this meeting. I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Pakistan and I'll give the floor to Egypt.

Egypt: Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Mr. Chairperson, the delegation of Egypt is committed to the centrality of free, fair, and inclusive elections as one of the vehicles towards ensuring democratic governance and the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms of all without discrimination. It is enshrined in our constitution and reflected in policies and programs aimed at widening, encouraging, and ensuring wider participation of Egyptian nationals in political and election processes, in particular women, youth, and persons with disabilities.

Mr. Chairperson, my delegation, again, thanks the United States for presenting this important resolution and we take note of the focus of this year's resolution on the freedom of expression. The right to freedom of expression is enshrined in the ICCPR and is key in the context of elections. However, it is not absolute. It carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions as are provided by law, as is stipulated in articles 19 and 20 of the ICCPR to which Egypt is a state party, as are many other member states. Unfortunately, the resolution as adopted lacks balance in this regard.

Furthermore, the principle of non-discrimination is guaranteed in the UDHR and international human rights law, as well as reflected in the sustainable development agenda and translated accordingly in the SDGs and their targets, including target 10.2 on social, economic and political inclusion. The principle of non-discrimination should remain absolute, without fragmentation.

My delegation regrets the fact that this important resolution was subject to a vote, the insistence of the

penholder to include contentious references in the resolution despite numerous demands to delete them during the informal consultations, has unfortunately jeopardized the consensus on the resolution, favoring the imposition of concepts that do not enjoy consensus by member states of the United Nations, are vague, and do not have a basis in international law. This comes at the expense of promoting the objective of the resolution. My delegation accordingly found itself, regrettably, unable to vote in favor of the resolution and had to abstain. The amendments presented in the room were aimed at ensuring consensus and despite the results, they represent a persistent objection to the imposition of undefined terms against democratic values.

We appeal to the pen holder to reconsider their position and lead us in the future towards consensus in this regard. In conclusion, my delegation registers Egypt's association from PP 10 PP 12 and OP seven, I thank you.



Above: The representative of Egypt disassociates from "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" language.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Egypt and I'll give the floor to Libya.

Libya: Thank you Chair. First of all, I would like to point out that we voted in favor of the resolution. We're convinced that the principle of democracy and universal participation in elections and all political processes is highly important. However, we have certain comments to make.

We disassociate ourselves from operative paragraph seven and preambular paragraph 10. Specifically, expressions such as gender identity and sexual orientation. These are non-consensual language, they do not enjoy the support of all members of the United Nations. They're not accepted in many national

legislations. These expressions do not fit with our cultural, religious and social principles, and this is part of our national sovereignty. Please include our comments in the record. Thank you very much.



Above: The representative of Libya disassociates from "in all their diversity" and "sexual orientation and gender identity" language, saying, "These expressions do not fit with our cultural, religious, and social principles, and this is part of our national sovereignty."

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Libya and I'll give the floor to Argentina.

Argentina: Thank you very much, Chair. Firstly, we thank the delegation of the United States for presenting this resolution which is of great importance to ensure democracy is universal and to ensure people can fully participate, including fair and just elections for all citizens, and the need to respect all voters. We especially value the inclusive nature of this based on human rights with a gender balance.



Above: The representative of Argentina says, "We note the emphasis made on guaranteeing the rights of all citizens, especially those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, and who are underrepresented in political participation and including 'women and all their diversity' and LGBTQI+, including the cross-cutting nature of this in for a more inclusive society."

In this respect, we note the emphasis made on guaranteeing the rights of all citizens, especially

those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, and who are underrepresented in political participation and including “women and all their diversity” and LGBTQI+, including the cross-cutting nature of this for a more inclusive society. Likewise, we welcome the inclusion of the freedom of expression in the context of electoral processes.

To conclude, we thank the facilitators for this comprehensive and inclusive approach to this resolution. This helps to ensure universality of human rights and implement the 2030 agenda and its principle of leaving no one behind. Thank you very much.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of Argentina and I’ll give the floor to South Africa.

South Africa: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I’d like to take the floor in explanation of South Africa’s vote and decision to abstain on this proposal, as well as our voting on the amendments. At the outset. Mr. Chair, I wish to reaffirm that South Africa is committed to the principle of non-discrimination, especially with regards to participation in elections, as it was contained in OP seven of this resolution, especially on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. This is enshrined in our Constitution, and we believe LGBTI persons should always be accorded their full democratic rights of participation and this resolution reaffirms the protection of those rights. This is why we voted against these amendments that sought to remove this important and valued language.



Above: The representative of South Africa says, “We believe LGBTI persons should always be accorded their full democratic rights of participation and this resolution reaffirms the protection of those rights.”

However, Chair, the inclusion of such important language does not sufficiently address concerns in this year’s proposal. The resolution has always been carefully

balanced to encourage electoral processes and support for them with respect to the principle of non-interference. The decision to keep all that language intact retains this concept. Unfortunately, South Africa is concerned about additional language this year that needed further clarification. The new additions do not satisfy the value of accurate information as being fundamental in an open and transparent electoral process. This is vitally important to ensure that participation in elections is fair and equal with a broad spectrum of societal engagement that is built on a well-informed public participation. I thank you.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of South Africa and I’ll give the floor to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Syrian Arab Republic: Thank you Mr. Chair. During the debate, on all the EOVs, no one, not a single delegation, said anything about being against the democratic elections, and that’s a good thing. We agree on something. This is a foundation to rely on.

What I know, that I am 20 and 11 years old, and my country is way older than me. But if we know something, we know that if you build something on a weak foundation, it will fall. Period. And this is when and where they fall. They have exposed themselves in the way that we’re dealing, and I mean main sponsors, with this resolution. Their practices, their acts, they isolated themselves. They ignored the written comments sent from certain member states, certain member states. They ignored it. They didn’t even mention it in the text. Again, all of this is uncommon, but expected from the main sponsors.

But I don’t think that’s why they lost here. It’s much simpler than that. The vote on the whole resolution, it was a shock for some, but we believe that this is a normal consequence for the act. This is the ordinary repercussions of the acts and practices that we have witnessed when we were negotiating the draft. The rule says that if you go on the same road as others, you will reach the same conclusion. That’s the rule, and as long as some might keep proceeding with the same approach, they will reach the same conclusion and that’s for sure. Well, let’s think when the Chair said that the vote was again requested on the text, some were shocked, but I don’t know why the shock again, it’s the ordinary response for such acts.

I think what we have witnessed today is a kind reminder that here we are all equal. We all have concerns. If we don't take aboard all of those concerns, no one will survive. It's that simple. I thank you, Mr. Chair.



Above: The representative of the Syrian Arab Republic explains its abstention from voting on the resolution as a whole.

Chair: I thank the distinguished representative of the Syrian Arab Republic and I'll give the floor to the Holy See.

Holy See: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Holy See thanks the delegation of the United States for facilitating the informal consultations on the present resolution. Genuine elections permit citizens freely to express their ideas and opinions. In this respect, the Holy See appreciates the inclusion of language on the right to freedom of opinion and expression as a key enabler of genuine elections. Moreover, online communication tools can aid citizens' exercise of their rights, helping to expand political participation.

However, the Holy See regrets that despite the call from a number of delegations, most of the text was not open for negotiation. Similarly, working off a revised text, without having access to a compilation, hindered the transparency of the process, and prevented delegations from adequately assessing and engaging with each other's proposals.

That inability to engage on all paragraphs also meant that language which is well known to be contentious was preserved, unaltered, despite numerous delegations raising concerns and making proposals. In that regard, my delegation finds it regrettable that the text includes ambiguous and contentious terminology related to diversity in PP 10 and marginalization in PP 6 and PP 30. Similarly, the reference to adolescent girls in PP

21 blurs the lines between childhood and adulthood, disregarding the different rights and protections to which each are entitled.

With respect to OP seven, my delegation regrets the retention of the reference to sexual orientation and gender identity, while firmly condemning all forms of unjust discrimination, and reaffirming the equal dignity of every human person. The Holy See stresses that the concepts of sexual orientation and gender identity lack definitions under international law and do not enjoy consensus. In this regard, my delegation understands that sexual orientation is not independent from personal sexual identity. For these reasons, we profoundly regret that the retention of such language, without the possibility to further discuss it, prevented the achievement of consensus around this text.

Finally, the Holy See, in conformity with its nature and particular mission, is obliged to make the following reservation on the text adopted. With reference to gender, the Holy See understands the term to be grounded in the biological sexual identity and difference that is male or female. Thank you, Mr. Chair.



Above: The representative of the Holy See speaks against language on diversity, marginalization, adolescent girls, and sexual orientation and gender identity. The representative also says that the Holy See understands gender "to be grounded in the biological sexual identity and difference that is male or female."

Annex A: Draft Resolution

Annex A: Draft Resolution

United Nations

A/C.3/78/L.51



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
31 October 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Third Committee

Agenda item 71 (b)

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Albania, Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming that democracy is a universal value based on the freely expressed will of the people to determine their own political, economic, social and cultural systems and their full participation in all aspects of their lives,

Reaffirming also that, while democracies share common features, there is no single model of democracy and that democracy does not belong to any country or region, and reaffirming further the necessity of due respect for sovereignty and the right to self-determination,

Stressing that democracy, development, rule of law and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Acknowledging also that respecting human rights, protecting democratic institutions and principles and promoting the rule of law creates an environment in which countries can promote development, protect individuals from discrimination and ensure equal access to justice for all by involving Governments, parliaments, the United Nations system and other international organizations, local authorities, national human rights institutions, indigenous peoples, persons belonging to

23-21154 (E) 061123



Please recycle



A/C.3/78/L.51

minorities, human rights defenders, civil society, businesses and the private sector, the scientific and academic communities, and all other interested stakeholders,

Reaffirming that Member States are responsible for organizing, conducting and ensuring transparent, free and fair electoral processes inclusive of all citizens, including those who are marginalized and underrepresented, as well as those belonging to minorities, and that Member States, in the exercise of their sovereignty, may request international organizations to provide advisory services or assistance for strengthening and developing their electoral institutions and processes, including sending preliminary missions for that purpose,

Recognizing the importance of fair, periodic, inclusive and genuine elections, including in nascent democracies and countries undergoing democratization, in order to empower citizens to express their will and to promote a successful transition to long-term sustainable democracies,

Recognizing also that Member States are responsible for ensuring transparent, free and fair elections, free of intimidation, coercion and tampering with vote counts, and that all such acts are sanctioned accordingly,

Reaffirming the importance of protecting the integrity of electoral processes as a means to promote democracy and good governance and reinforce trust in public institutions, including through providing public and technical support, upon request and in line with the purposes and principles of the Charter, to help to ensure periodic, free and fair elections through an inclusive and genuine process,

Highlighting the importance of including women in all their diversity on an equal basis in election processes that are free from discrimination and allow for their full, equal and meaningful participation, allowing for gender-responsive political institutions and the creation of more inclusive societies,

Emphasizing that Member States are responsible for respecting the will of the voters as expressed through genuine, periodic, free and fair elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage, and in this respect expressing serious concern about the unconstitutional or unlawful disruption of representative governance and democratic institutions and the unlawful removal of any democratically elected officials, whether by States or non-State actors,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the subject, in particular resolution 76/176 of 16 December 2021,

Recalling also all relevant Human Rights Council resolutions on the topic, including resolutions 19/11 of 22 March 2012,¹ 31/14 of 23 March 2016,² 31/37 of 24 March 2016,³ 33/22 of 30 September 2016,⁴ 34/41 of 24 March 2017,⁵ 39/11 of 28 September 2018,⁶ 48/2 of 7 October 2021,⁷ 51/5 of 6 October 2022,⁸ 50/21 of 8 July 2022,⁹ 52/22 of 3 April 2023¹⁰ and 50/17 of 8 July 2022,¹¹

¹ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/67/53 and A/67/53/Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

² *Ibid.*, *Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/71/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53A* and corrigendum (A/71/53/Add.1 and A/71/53/Add.1/Corr.1), chap. II.

⁵ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-second Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/72/53)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁶ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-third Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/73/53/Add.1)*, chap. III.

⁷ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-sixth Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/76/53/Add.1)*, chap. IV, sect. A.

⁸ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53A (A/77/53/Add.1)*, chap. VIII, sect. A.

⁹ *Ibid.*, *Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. III, sect. A.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-eighth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/78/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, *Seventy-seventh Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/77/53)*, chap. VIII, sect. A.

Reaffirming that United Nations electoral assistance and support for the promotion of democratization are provided only at the specific request of the Member State concerned,

Noting with satisfaction that an increasing number of Member States are using elections as a peaceful means of discerning the will of the people, which builds confidence in representational governance and contributes to greater national peace and stability, and which may contribute to regional peace and stability,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted on 10 December 1948,¹² in particular the principle that the will of the people, as expressed through periodic and genuine elections, shall be the basis of government authority, as well as the right of everyone to freely choose representatives through periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures,

Reaffirming the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,¹⁴ the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination¹⁵ and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,¹⁶ and reaffirming also that no distinctions are permitted among citizens on any grounds, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, or on the basis of disability, in the enjoyment of the right to participate, directly or through freely chosen representatives, and to vote and to be elected in genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors,

Reaffirming also that the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels should be universal and conducted without conditions attached and that the international community should support the strengthening and promotion of democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and the principles of the rule of law in the entire world,¹⁷

Underscoring the important role that regional and subregional organizations play, in accordance with the Charter, in the areas of peace and security, development and human rights,¹⁸ and recalling their commitments to supporting the principles of free and fair elections,

Reaffirming that the full, equal and meaningful participation and representation of all women, on equal terms with men, at all levels of decision-making is essential to the achievement of gender equality, social inclusion, sustainable development, peace and democracy, as well as for the realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Recognizing that unpaid care and domestic work remains invisible, undervalued and unaccounted for in national statistics, and neglected in economic and social policymaking, and that women and girls, including adolescent girls, undertake a disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work from one generation to the next, and that these disproportionate impacts compound existing obstacles to

¹² Resolution 217 A (III).

¹³ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 660, No. 9464.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

¹⁷ A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III, para. 8.

¹⁸ Resolution 69/277, para. 2.

A/C.3/78/L.51

women's full, effective, equal and meaningful participation and decision-making in public life,

Mindful that women continue to account for only one quarter of national legislators worldwide, and highlighting the importance of all women's full, equal and meaningful participation, including women with disabilities, and representation in parliaments, including in leadership positions, and the importance for parliaments to mainstream a gender perspective in their work,

Emphasizing the role of all women in decision-making and leadership positions through broad political engagement and full, effective, equal and meaningful participation and representation across all political, economic and public dimensions of a society is essential to a strong democracy,

Noting such inclusion will further contribute to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the success of peace mediation, peacebuilding processes, post-conflict reconstruction and sustainable global security while simultaneously advancing Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the women, peace and security agenda,

Mindful that the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women in political and public life may only be achieved when all acts of sexual and gender-based violence including conflict-related sexual violence, and sexual harassment both online and offline, are effectively combated,

Underlining the importance of primary birth registration for the enjoyment of all the rights to which individuals are entitled, including civil and political rights and with respect to political participation,

Recognizing that in order to equally participate in free and fair elections, all women need not only the legal right to vote but the ability to access polling stations and elections information freely, and that Member States should include the perspectives of women in diverse conditions and situations in designing, evaluating and reviewing policies and legislation on participation in political and public affairs,

Noting the importance of providing comprehensive, accessible and free civic education for all people, including all women and girls, as well as electoral information and voting papers, to all having the right to participate in elections, in a range of accessible formats and languages, as appropriate, empowering thus all citizens having the right to participate in elections,

Stressing the importance, generally and in the context of promoting free, fair and inclusive elections, of respect for the freedoms of peaceful assembly and association and expression, including the freedom to seek, receive and impart information, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and noting in particular the fundamental importance of access to information and media freedom, including through accessible and easy-to-understand formats for new information and communications technologies,

Recognizing the potential of online communication tools to promote freedom of expression and expand political participation, as well as to empower persons who belong to underrepresented groups and those who are marginalized, including but not limited to groups mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization,¹⁹ and urging States to create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for journalists to perform their work independently and without undue interference,

¹⁹ A/78/260.

Recognizing also that social media platforms are now well-established channels for the free expression of ideas and opinions and that they can be effective tools for participation and inclusion as part of the political process, and recognizing further that misinformation and disinformation disrupts the ability of the electorate to make informed decisions,

Expressing deep concern that the increasing prevalence and spread of disinformation by both internal and external actors on traditional and social media, as well as efforts to manipulate voting systems and the use of Internet and mass media shutdowns to intentionally and arbitrarily prevent or disrupt access to or dissemination of information online in the framework of elections, constitute an urgent problem for democracies around the world,

Recognizing that the spread of hate speech through online platforms is increasingly directed at political figures, disproportionately targeted at women and members of minority groups, causes serious harm to those affected and can have a damaging impact on electoral processes,

Emphasizing that democracy, transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory governance responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, and respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are essential for the effective prevention and elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance,

Acknowledging the linkage and complementarity of the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance with the long-term construction of a democratic, non-discriminatory and multicultural society based on the recognition, respect and promotion of cultural, ethnic and religious diversity,

Noting that some countries are beginning to use online technology for balloting purposes, and reaffirming the right to privacy, according to which no one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with their privacy, family, home or correspondence, and the right to the protection of the law against such interference, as set out in article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 17 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online,

Recognizing the need to strengthen democratic processes, electoral institutions and national capacity-building in requesting countries, including the capacity to administer fair elections, promote voter education, the development of electoral expertise and technology and the full, equal and meaningful participation of all women on equal terms with men, take all appropriate measures to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of all persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others, increase citizen participation and provide civic education, including to youth, in requesting countries in order to consolidate and regularize the achievements of previous elections and support subsequent elections,

Noting the importance of ensuring orderly, open, fair and transparent democratic processes that protect the rights to peaceful assembly, association and freedom of expression and opinion,

Emphasizing that free, independent and pluralistic media can play an indispensable role in informing people around the world, and stressing the important connections between free and fair elections, freedom of expression and a free and independent press that can operate without hindrance as cornerstones of democracy,

Emphasizing also that the right to freedom of expression, as set forth in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, includes the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, both online

A/C.3/78/L.51

and offline, and that access to information and the work of journalists and media workers are essential for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Expressing concern at the growing threats to freedom of expression and media freedom worldwide, including harassment, attacks and unlawful detention of journalists and media workers, while recognizing their crucial role in the context of elections, including informing the public about candidates, their platforms and ongoing debates, and expressing serious concerns that attacks against journalists increase during election periods,

Noting that the international community can contribute to the creation of conditions that could foster stability and security throughout the pre-election, election and post-election periods in transitional and post-conflict situations,

Reiterating that transparency is a fundamental basis for free and fair elections, which contribute to the accountability of Governments to their citizens, which, in turn, is an underpinning of democratic societies,

Acknowledging, in this regard, the importance of national and international observation of elections for the promotion of free and fair elections and its contribution to enhancing the integrity of election processes in requesting countries, to promoting public confidence and electoral participation and to mitigating the potential for election-related disturbances,

Acknowledging also that extending invitations regarding international electoral assistance and/or observation is the sovereign right of Member States, and welcoming the decisions of those States that have requested such assistance and/or observation,

Recalling its resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005, entitled “2005 World Summit Outcome”, in which it welcomed the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Welcoming the support provided by Member States to the electoral assistance activities of the United Nations, inter alia, through the provision of electoral experts, including electoral commission staff, and observers, as well as through contributions to the United Nations trust fund for electoral assistance, the democratic governance thematic trust fund of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Democracy Fund,

Recognizing that electoral assistance, particularly through appropriate, sustainable, accessible and cost-effective electoral technology, can facilitate full access for persons with disabilities and supports the electoral processes of developing countries,

Recognizing also the coordination challenges posed by the multiplicity of actors involved in electoral assistance both within and outside the United Nations,

Welcoming the contributions made by international and regional organizations and also by non-governmental organizations to enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization, and stressing the importance of fostering enabling environments in which civil society organizations, human rights defenders, peacebuilders and journalists and media workers can operate freely and safely, both online and offline, thereby increasing the ability of individuals to take part in elections and election monitoring,

Recognizing the importance of the links between democracy, sustainable, social and economic development, the reduction of inequalities, peace, human rights, the rule of law, democracy and good governance, including the holding of free and fair

elections, and in this regard recalling the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,²⁰

Bearing in mind that measures necessary to deal with situations of health emergencies and pandemics, such as the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, can have a considerable impact on public participation, including through restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression, to peaceful assembly and freedom of association, and on access to information, affecting particularly the work of the media and civil society, including women's rights organizations and organizations of persons with disabilities, and direct participation in decision-making and leading to restrictions in the context of electoral processes,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing periodic and genuine elections and the promotion of democratization;

2. *Commends* the electoral assistance provided upon request to Member States by the United Nations, and requests that such assistance continue on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the evolving needs and legislation of requesting countries to develop, improve and refine their electoral institutions and processes, including by ensuring full access to all stages of the electoral process for persons with disabilities, recognizing that the responsibility for organizing free and fair elections lies with Governments;

3. *Reaffirms* that the electoral assistance provided by the United Nations should continue to be carried out in an objective, impartial, neutral and independent manner;

4. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in her role as United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, to continue to regularly inform Member States about the requests received and the nature of any assistance provided;

5. *Requests* the United Nations to continue its efforts to ensure, before undertaking to provide electoral assistance to a requesting State, that there is adequate time to organize and carry out an effective mission providing such assistance, including the provision of long-term technical cooperation, that conditions exist to allow a free and fair election and that the results of the mission will be reported comprehensively and consistently;

6. *Notes* the importance of adequate resources for the administration of efficient and transparent elections at the national and local levels, and recommends that Member States provide adequate resources for those elections, including by considering the possibility of establishing internal funding, where feasible;

7. *Reaffirms* the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis, and calls upon States to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, including based on race, colour, ethnicity, national or social origin, sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, language, religion, political views or on the basis of disability;

8. *Strongly condemns* any manipulation of election processes, coercion and tampering with vote counts, particularly when done by States, as well as by other actors, and calls upon all Member States to respect the rule of law and the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, including the right to vote and to be

²⁰ Resolution 70/1.

A/C.3/78/L.51

elected at genuine periodic elections, which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors, thereby fostering conditions in which all citizens, regardless of how they voted, whom they supported or whether their candidates prevailed, have the motivation and incentive, as well as the right and opportunity, to continue to participate directly or through elected representatives in the conduct of public affairs and their Government;

9. *Reaffirms* the need for all Member States to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression, including through creating an environment where a free and independent press can flourish and where journalists and media workers can keep citizens informed at all stages of elections about candidates, parties and their political platforms, both online and offline, in order to promote transparency and information integrity, including by countering disinformation and misinformation, and to this end also strongly condemns any attempts to harass, intimidate, attack or arbitrarily detain journalists and media workers;

10. *Calls upon* all Member States to ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives, including the right and opportunity for persons with disabilities to vote and to be elected;

11. *Also calls upon* all Member States to consider ways to increase the representation of all youth in decision-making at all levels in local, national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms, to promote the constructive political engagement of youth and to consider, explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustained participation of youth and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes;

12. *Further calls upon* all Member States to enhance the political participation of all women, accelerate the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all situations, including by taking measures to reduce and redistribute women's and girls' disproportionate share of unpaid care and domestic work, promote and protect the human rights of women with respect to voting in elections and public referendums and being eligible for election to publicly elected bodies on equal terms with men at all levels of government by further inclusion and by measures to prevent and respond to and condemn all forms of sexual and gender-based violence, both online and offline;

13. *Recommends* that, throughout the timespan of the entire electoral cycle, including before and after elections, as appropriate, on the basis of a needs assessment and in accordance with the evolving needs of requesting Member States, bearing in mind sustainability and cost-effectiveness, the United Nations continue to provide technical advice and other assistance to requesting States and electoral institutions in order to help to strengthen their democratic processes, also bearing in mind that the relevant office may provide additional assistance in the form of mediation and good offices, upon the request of Member States;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the additional efforts being made to enhance cooperation with other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to facilitate more comprehensive and needs-specific responses to requests for electoral assistance, encourages those organizations to share knowledge and experience in order to promote best practices in the assistance that they provide and in their reporting on electoral processes, and expresses its appreciation to those Member States, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations that have provided observers or technical experts in support of United Nations electoral assistance efforts;

15. *Acknowledges* the aim of harmonizing the methods and standards of the many intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations engaged in observing elections, and in this regard expresses appreciation for the Declaration of Principles for International Election Observation and the Code of Conduct for International Election Observers, which elaborate guidelines for international electoral observation;

16. *Recalls* the establishment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations trust fund for electoral assistance, and, bearing in mind that the fund is currently close to depletion, calls upon Member States to consider contributing to the fund;

17. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, through the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters and with the support of the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, to continue to respond to the evolving nature of requests for assistance and the growing need for specific types of medium-term expert assistance aimed at supporting and strengthening the existing capacity of the requesting Government, in particular by enhancing the capacity of national electoral institutions;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide the Electoral Assistance Division with adequate human and financial resources to allow it to carry out its mandate, including to enhance the accessibility and diversity of the roster of electoral experts and the electoral institutional memory of the Organization, and to continue to ensure that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is able to respond, within its mandate and in close coordination with the Division, to the numerous and increasingly complex and comprehensive requests from Member States for advisory services;

19. *Reiterates* the need for ongoing comprehensive coordination, under the auspices of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, between the Electoral Assistance Division, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support of the Secretariat and the Office of the High Commissioner to ensure coordination and coherence and avoid duplication of United Nations electoral assistance;

20. *Requests* the United Nations Development Programme to continue its democratic governance assistance programmes in cooperation with other relevant organizations, in particular those that promote the strengthening of democratic institutions and linkages between civil society and Governments;

21. *Reiterates* the role of civil society, human rights defenders, peacebuilders, as well as journalists and media workers, and the importance of their active engagement in the promotion of democratization, and invites Member States to facilitate the full, effective, equal and meaningful participation of civil society in electoral processes;

22. *Also reiterates* the importance of reinforced coordination within and outside the United Nations system, and reaffirms the clear leadership role within the United Nations system of the United Nations focal point for electoral assistance matters, including in ensuring system-wide coherence and consistency and in strengthening the institutional memory and the development, dissemination and issuance of United Nations electoral assistance policies;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its eightieth session on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the status of requests from Member States for electoral assistance, and on his efforts to enhance support by the Organization for the democratization process in Member States;

A/C.3/78/L.51

24. *Underlines* the importance of public participation, with an increasing number of channels for engagement moving online, posing obstacles for those segments of the population who have limited or no Internet access or who face other barriers to digital inclusion, such as the affordability of the Internet, and encourages States to ensure that all stakeholders, including women and girls, persons living in rural communities and persons with disabilities, have access to timely and accurate information and are fully involved in decisions that affect them.

Annex B: Amendments Introduced by the OIC

Annex B: Amendments Introduced by the OIC

GA78

3rd Committee

Agenda item 71 (b)

Draft Resolution on 'Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections'

Contained in document [A/C.3/78/L.51](#)

Amendment 1

Submitted by

the Group of Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in New York*

PP10:

PP10 Highlighting the importance of including women ~~in all their diversity~~ on an equal basis with men in election processes that are free from discrimination and allow for their full, equal and meaningful participation, allowing for gender-responsive political institutions and the creation of more inclusive societies,

* Except Albania and Suriname

GA78

3rd Committee

Agenda item 71 (b)

Draft Resolution on 'Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections'

Contained in document [A/C.3/78/L.51](#)

Amendment 2

Submitted by

the Group of Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in New York*

PP12 *Recalling* its previous resolutions on the subject, ~~in particular resolution 76/176 of 16 December 2021~~ ~~74/158,~~

* Except Albania and Suriname

GA78

3rd Committee

Agenda item 71 (b)

Draft Resolution on 'Strengthening the role of the United Nations in the promotion of democratization and enhancing periodic and genuine elections'

Contained in document [A/C.3/78/L.51](#)

Amendment 3

Submitted by

the Group of Member States of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in New York*

OP7 ALT:

Reaffirms the obligation of all States to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen has the effective right and opportunity to participate in elections on an equal basis, and calls upon States to take measures to eliminate laws, regulations and practices that discriminate, directly or indirectly, against citizens in their right to participate in public affairs, including on the basis of sex, disability, race, colour, ethnicity, language, origin, political views, religion or economic or other status;

* Except Albania and Suriname

Annex C: Vote on Final Resolution

Annex C: Vote on Final Resolution

Abstained

Bahrain, Burundi, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kuwait, Mauritania, Namibia, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa, Syrian Arab Republic, Togo, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan

Did Not Vote

Afghanistan, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Ghana, Mauritius, Nauru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Somalia, South Sudan, Turkey, Venezuela

No

Mali

Yes

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Index of Member State Statements

Index of Member State Statements

State	Page	State	Page
Albania	23	Malaysia	30
Algeria	41	Mexico	32
Argentina	21, 44	Micronesia (Federated States of)	35
Australia	22	Montenegro	37
Belarus	36	Netherlands	41
Brazil	38	Niger	40
Chile	21	Nigeria	37
China	31	North Macedonia	20
Colombia	28	Oman	30
Costa Rica	33	Pakistan	43
Denmark	28	Peru	30
Dominican Republic	39	Russian Federation	16, 27
Egypt	17, 18, 22, 24, 43	Senegal	31
Ethiopia	38	Singapore	36
France	41	South Africa	45
Guyana	19	Spain	23, 32
Holy See	46	Sudan	42
Hungary	35	Syrian Arab Republic	45
Indonesia	20	Tanzania (United Republic of)	34
Iran	27	Uganda	42
Japan	34	United Kingdom	29
Liberia	40	United States of America	15, 18, 26
Libya	44	Yemen	38
Liechtenstein	26, 27		



OUTRIGHT
INTERNATIONAL

Contact:

Hannah Kohn

United Nations Program Officer

hkohn@outrightinternational.org

Outright International

216 East 45th Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY, 10017

T +1 212 430 6054 E comms@outrightinternational.org

outrightinternational.org