Declaration on the right to international solidarity

Preamble

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and recalling, in particular, the determination of States expressed therein to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights and freedoms, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,[1]

Recalling that one of the purposes of the United Nations set out in its Charter is to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction and that all Member States pledge themselves to take joint and separate action in cooperation with the United Nations for the achievement of this purpose,[2]

Recalling also that international solidarity is supported within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which sets forth that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights, that they are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood, and affirms that everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which rights and freedoms can be fully realized,[3]

Inspired by the principle of international solidarity to enable the full realization of human rights through a democratic and equitable international order characterized by cooperation to overcome global challenges and promote sustainable development,[4]

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations' recognition of the sovereign equality of states, the equal rights and self-determination of peoples, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention, and the duty of states to cooperate with one-another as set forth in Articles 55 and 56, as well as Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights,

Recognizing in this regard that international solidarity is essential in preventing and overcoming global challenges such as disasters, global health and health emergencies, environmental degradation, pollution, bio-diversity loss, climate crisis, forced migration and displacement, trafficking in persons and slavery, structural inequality, poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, food insecurity, all forms of gender-based violence and violence against children, racism and discrimination, targeting of persons based on their religion or belief, violent extremism, terrorism, colonialism, foreign occupation, armed conflict, unilateral coercive measures, concentration of corporate power, transnational organized crime, corruption, illicit arms trade, digital divide, AI bias, and closing civic space,[5]

Affirming that international solidarity includes but is not limited to international assistance and cooperation, aid, charity or humanitarian assistance; that it is a broader concept and principle that includes sustainability in international relations, especially international economic relations, the peaceful coexistence of all members of the international community, equal partnerships and the equitable sharing of benefits and burdens,[6]

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[1] Charter of the United Nations, preamble.
[2] Charter of the United Nations, chap. 1.
[3] Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
[4] Human Rights Council resolution 25/15.
[5] See The Secretary-General, "The world demands global solidarity to address today's challenges", United Nations Sustainable Development Group, 12 January 2021.
[6] A/HRC/RES/18/5

Taking into account the fifth preambular paragraph of both the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, which states that individuals, having duties to other individuals and to the communities to which they belong, are under a responsibility to strive for the promotion and observance of the rights recognized therein,[7]

Concerned by the discrimination and xenophobia against persons based on their race, skin colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, religious, linguistic background, refugee or migrant status, and bearing in mind the need for a collaborative approach to inclusion in conformity with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Article 27 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the principle of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities,[8] Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief, and the Durban Programme and Plan of Action,[9]

Realizing the importance of the elimination of all forms of sexual and gender-based violence and discrimination, including harmful practices in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, bearing in mind the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) and the outcomes of their review conferences, and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women,[10]

Recalling that the Convention on the Rights of the Child calls for children to be brought up in the spirit of solidarity and recognizes the importance of international cooperation for upholding the right of every child to a standard of living adequate for the child's physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development, and for protecting the rights of the child everywhere in peacetime and in armed conflict,[11]

Taking Note of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognition of the importance of international cooperation for improving the living conditions of persons with disabilities in every country, particularly in developing countries[12],

Reaffirming the human rights focus and international cooperation within the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration which consolidates international solidarity with migrants in all countries throughout the migration cycle, including countries of origin, transit, destination, and return countries, addressing the structural causes of migration, and calling for the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights by migrants,

Recalling the importance of international cooperation for the promotion of sound, equitable and humane conditions in connection with international migration of workers and members of their families in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers,

Recalling the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol that support the principles of humanity, and conclusion No. 52 on international solidarity and refugee protection of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which attaches the utmost importance to the principle of international solidarity in collectively implementing fundamental humanitarian principles of

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[7] International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; | OHCHR and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | OHCHR.

[8] International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and General Assembly resolution 47/135 | OHCHR.

[9] Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief | OHCHR

[10] Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women New York, 18 December 1979 | OHCHR; Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women | OHCHR.

[11] Convention on the Rights of the Child | OHCHR and Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict | OHCHR

[12] UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly*, A/RES/61/106, 24 January 2007, preamble

refugee protection, namely fulfilling international legal obligations to ensure access to the asylum process and to ensure full respect for the principle of non-refoulement,[13]

Reaffirming the Declaration on the Right to Development and the importance of international solidarity as a vital component of the efforts of all countries to realize the right to development of their peoples and to promote the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights,[14] including through South-South and triangular cooperation, that are a complement to, not a substitute for North-South Cooperation,

Reaffirming all the rights of Indigenous Peoples guaranteed by international standards, notably the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that reaffirms their right to self-determination.[15] This encompasses rights to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), cross-border cooperation, and the ability to freely determine their own destiny as well as political, economic, social, and cultural development in accordance with international law.

Recalling the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights which underscore the need for States and other actors to ensure that businesses respect human rights and protect the environment throughout their operations,[16]

Recognizing the commitments within the United Nations Global Digital Compact to ensure that digital transformation advances human rights, reduces inequalities and strengthens international cooperation.

Taking into account that the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders confirms the right of everyone, individually and in association with others, to meet, promote, and strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels, as well as to develop and discuss new human rights ideas and principles and to advocate their acceptance,[17]

Stressing that the Declaration on the Right to Peace calls upon States to respect, implement and promote equality and non-discrimination, justice and the rule of law, and guarantee freedom from fear and want as a means to build peace within and between societies,[18]

Further recalling the renewed international framework for financing for development adopted in the Sevilla Commitment (2025), which underscores that international solidarity, multilateralism, and cooperation are indispensable to close the financing gap for sustainable development and to ensure that no one is left behind, particularly in developing countries,

Convinced that overcoming current and future global challenges, achieving internationally agreed sustainable development goals within planetary boundaries and the full realization of human rights for all critically rest on international solidarity,

Declares the following:

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[13] Convention relating to the Status of Refugees | OHCHR; The Global Compact on Refugees; and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration | IOM.

[14] Declaration on the Right to Development | OHCHR.

[15] UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples | OHCHR Article 46
1. Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, people, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act contrary to the Charter of the United Nations or construed as authorizing or encouraging any action which would dismember or impair, totally or in part, the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign and independent States.

[16] GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR_EN.pdf, Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1994), Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), UN Convention to Combat Desertification (1994). and Paris Agreement on Climate Change (2015)

[17] Declaration on human rights defenders | OHCHR

[18] UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Right to Peace: resolution / adopted by the General Assembly*, A/RES/71/189, 2 February 2017

Part I
International solidarity: definition, principles, scope and objectives

Article 1

1. International solidarity is an expression of unity and cooperation by which peoples and individuals enjoy the benefits of a peaceful, just and equitable international order, enjoy their human rights and ensure sustainable development.

2. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, States, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector should, through cooperation in good faith, achieve common goals and solve global challenges.

International solidarity should be implemented on the basis of mutual respect, without any conditionality, respecting sovereignty, and recognizing national human rights and development strategies that reflect the cultural diversity and solidarity tradition of each society.

3. International solidarity is a principle in contemporary international law based on, and in furtherance of[19]:

(a) Justice, peace, sustainable development, and equitable and fair partnerships between States as a basis for international cooperation;

(b) Respect for, protection and fulfilment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all individuals, without discrimination of any kind such as race, descent, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic, or social origin, migration status, property, birth, disability or other status[20];

(c) The permanent sovereignty of all peoples and States over their natural wealth and resources, to be balanced with the responsibility for sustainable management of natural resources and for sustainable development;

(d) Respect for the self-determination of all peoples and the territorial integrity, and political, economic, social, and cultural sovereignty of each State.

Article 2

1. International solidarity consists of preventive solidarity, reactive solidarity and international cooperation to solve global challenges, strengthen the multilateral system, and promote equitable and mutual beneficial global, regional and bilateral partnerships, based on joint stewardship, all of which shall respect the principles of non-intervention and territorial integrity.

(a) Preventive solidarity is characterized by actions to promote, safeguard, and ensure the full enjoyment and fulfilment of all human rights, through collective, individual, and intergenerational efforts by individuals, groups, peoples, youth, civil society, faith communities and organizations, the private sector, States and international organizations to fully respect and comply with their commitments under international law.

(b) Reactive solidarity is characterized by collective or individual actions of the aforesaid actors to respond to and solve global challenges, including, inter alia, global health and health emergencies, exposure to toxic hazards, environmental degradation, natural or man-made disasters, pollution, biodiversity loss, climate change, armed conflict, forced migration, trafficking in persons and slavery, inequality and poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, food insecurity, gender-based violence and violence against children, racism and discrimination, digital divide, AI bias, violent extremism, terrorism, colonialism, foreign domination and occupation, aggression, unilateral coercive measures, transnational organized crime, extractivism, corruption, illicit financial flows, and illegal arms trade.

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[19] Preamble and Article 1 Universal Declaration of Human Rights

[20] Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations

2. International cooperation in the field of human rights rests on the premise that States and other stakeholders should work together in good faith to ensure the full inclusion of all people, including underrepresented and excluded groups, in the realization of international human rights and responsibilities. States and other stakeholders, including civil society, act in solidarity by providing international support to each other in this area.

Article 3

The objectives of international solidarity are to create an enabling environment for:

(a) Promoting the realization and enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms; including the rights to development, peace, and a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

(b) Engendering trust and mutual respect to foster peace and humanitarian assistance, on condition of respect for sovereignty, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and non-use of force or the threat of force in international relations,

(c) Preventing and reducing asymmetries and inequities between and within States in realizing sustainable development, with particular attention paid to historic responsibility for systemic discrimination or exclusion that is rooted in the legacies of colonialism and slave trade that generate and perpetuate poverty and inequality worldwide,

(d) Responding to the structural causes of, *inter alia*, extreme poverty, food insecurity, health insecurity, pandemics, climate change, foreign dependence, forced migration, displacement, racism, lack of access to water and sanitation, homelessness, and armed conflicts,

(e) Supporting refugee and migrant-centred approaches to the contemporary challenges of forced and irregular migration, including efforts to increase opportunities for safe, orderly and regular migration and legal protections for migrants, including access to justice and support for host and transit countries,

(f) Building capacity to prevent significant harm to the environment, address, mitigate, remediate, and adapt to the negative impacts of climate change, pollution, desertification, and biodiversity loss, including through enhanced international cooperation, technology transfer, the provision of grant based or non-debt creating finance, and adequate support to address compensation for the human rights violations attendant on loss and damage, in line with states' respective capacities according to customary and treaty law[21],

(g) Safeguarding civic space while protecting and enabling civil society and social movements,

(h) Preventing sovereign debt crisis through promoting sustainable sovereign borrowing and lending practices[22], improving the framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes, and pursuing international cooperation and assistance in tax matters,

(i) Combating corruption and preventing and reversing illicit financial flows through investigation, asset recovery, tracking, tracing and freezing of the proceeds of corruption and the return of assets to the requesting State, its prior legitimate owners, or as compensation of the victims of the crime,

(j) Countering misinformation, disinformation and advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred that constitute incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence by offering facts, science and knowledge,

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[21] *Obligations of States in respect of Climate Change*, International Court of Justice (ICJ), 23 July 2025

[22] See A/RES/68/304 Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 9 September 2014 [without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.57/Rev.1)] 68/304. Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes

(k) Ensuring that artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies are developed and regulated to implement solidarity by design such that they uphold human rights, advance equality, inclusion, transparency, and prevent discrimination,

(l) Guaranteeing the right to the truth in cases involving gross violations of human rights and grave breaches of international humanitarian law, including enforced disappearance and summary executions by conducting effective investigation, remedy, and reparations[23],

(m) Addressing the aim of nuclear disarmament as essential for protecting the rights to life, health, and a healthy environment[24],

(n) Opposing marginalization, violence, and discrimination against women or children, and the use of gender stereotypes; promoting the economic empowerment of women and their equal and inclusive representation in decision-making across social, economic, and political spheres[25], recognizing women's leadership in international solidarity actions[26];

(o) Advancing child and youth participation and networking at the grass-roots, community, and national or international levels to increase opportunities for shared platforms for collective solidarity advocacy[27],

(p) Combating unilateral coercive measures that are contrary to the UN Charter, international treaty, and customary law.

Part II
International solidarity as a right and a duty

Article 4

1. The right to international solidarity is a positive corollary to non-discrimination. It is a right of individuals, associations, groups, and peoples to express or take action to include all persons in the enjoyment of human rights and participation in a social and international democratic and equitable order in which fundamental freedoms can be realized.

2. Individuals, associations, groups, and peoples are central subjects of, active participants in and beneficiaries of international solidarity.

3. The right to international solidarity is grounded in international human rights law, reflecting all human rights and the objectives of sustainable development and peace. It is complemented by other responsibilities where appropriate arising from commitments undertaken at bilateral, regional and international levels.

Article 5

The right to international solidarity belongs to and may be claimed by all individuals, groups, and peoples, individually and in association with others.

Article 6

1. All States, whether acting individually or collectively, including through international or regional organizations, should promote, respect, protect and fulfil the right to international solidarity. To this end, States should refrain from imposing obstacles or barriers that impede the realization of this right

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[23] International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance | OHCHR
[24] Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons | United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
[25] UN. Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), CEDAW General Recommendation No. 40 on the Equal and Inclusive Representation of Women in Decision-making Systems, CEDAW/C/GC/40, 2024
[26] Women Rise for All | United Nations
[27] UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), *CEDAW General Recommendation No. 23: Political and Public Life*, A/52/38, 1997; General recommendation No. 35 (2017) on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 (1992) | OHCHR; UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, General recommendation No.12 The Right of the Child to be Heard, 2009, CRC/C/GC/12 para. 130

States are the primary duty-bearers for the realization of the right to international solidarity.

2 States act in compliance with their duty through efforts to realize international solidarity as a human right that is indivisible from, interrelated to, and interdependent on all other human rights:

(a) The promotion of peace, environmental protection, humanitarian assistance, education, water, sanitation, hygiene, health, food and nutritional security, adequate housing, and social security,

(b) Ensuring participatory global governance through which structural inequalities and poverty are addressed,

(c) Building the full, equal and meaningful political participation of all people in national, regional and international decision-making positions,

(d) Facilitating civic society space to build community and collaborate to pursue shared solidarity goals through digital technology,

(e) Creating a global enabling environment for sustainable development within planetary boundaries that is centred on individuals, groups, and peoples and is grounded in intergenerational justice, environmental integrity, and equity. This includes the sustainable use, management, and conservation of natural resources, the protection of biodiversity, as well as the just transition to renewable energy, and the increased use of agricultural/ocean/marine/coastal ecology,[28]

(f) Correcting structures that impede access to the asylum process and to fair and effective refugee determination procedures, including externalization of migration control and transfer mechanisms; and refraining from unlawful actions that increase the vulnerability of migrants and risk violating their human rights, such as weaponized migration.

(g) Complying with Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination, cultural integrity, lands, territories, and resources including through implementation of the free, prior, informed consent standard, as well as the right to travel and meet to maintain cultural connections across borders,[29]

(h) Avoiding the initiation, enforcement, and implementation of unilateral coercive measures,

(i) Promoting coherence between international solidarity, peacebuilding, human rights, and the financing for development agenda, ensuring that global financial, trade, and environmental frameworks contribute to the realization of human rights, peace, and the right to development within planetary boundaries,

3. International cooperation should be aimed at ensuring that each State is able to fulfil its responsibilities to devote the maximum of its available resources to the implementation of its human rights obligations at the national level, both in the immediate fulfilment of its core obligations as a priority and in the concrete, deliberate and targeted progressive realization of all human rights both within their territories and extraterritorially.[30]

4. International organizations should promote and respect the right to international solidarity. To this end, international organizations have the obligation to refrain from conduct that aids, assists, controls or coerces a State or other international organization to breach obligations under international law.

5. Business enterprises should respect the right to international solidarity. Business enterprises should pursue a due diligence process to identify, prevent, mitigate, redress, and account for their human rights and environmental impacts; refrain from conduct that aids, assists, controls or coerces a State to breach obligations under international or national law;

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[28] Nexus Assessment | IPBES ICT guide; A/HRC/58/L.26/Rev.1); A/RES/78/144; A/RES/76/300

[29] UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

[30] Maastricht ETO Principles ENG booklet principles 3, 9 b, 13

refrain from disinformation or misinformation; and provide transparent, accessible mechanisms for communication and response to solidarity demands presented to them by civil society, trade unions, Indigenous Peoples and other associations or groups.

Part III
Implementing the right to international solidarity

Article 7

1. The implementation of international solidarity is founded upon the cooperation between States and civil society to address and overcome national and global challenges, including inequality.

2. International Solidarity is founded on the good faith efforts of States to ensure a genuine dialogue and a cooperative and constructive approach in the inclusion of all in the enjoyment of human rights, guided by the principles of universality, non-selectivity, non-retrogression, non-discrimination, justice, objectivity, interrelatedness and cooperation.[31]

3. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) provides a forum in which States can share international solidarity best practices and implement recommendations.

4. States undertake to support each other in the establishment of transparent institutions to collect sex-desegregated data, report and respond to discrimination and violence (including harmful practices) against women, children, people of African Descent, persons with disabilities, refugees, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, minorities, older persons, and other groups in vulnerable situations due to intersectional discrimination that combines to create unique disadvantage.

5. Assessments of the implementation of the right to international solidarity can be undertaken by States individually and jointly, including within international organizations, evaluating their national laws, policies and practices, and of the conduct of business enterprises that they regulate, to ensure full compliance with their human rights obligations, including towards future generations.

6. States undertake to pursue appropriate, transparent and inclusive action to ensure the full, equal, and meaningful participation of all individuals, groups, and peoples, including younger generations, in decision-making processes at the national, bilateral, regional and international levels on matters that affect their enjoyment of international solidarity.

7. States and business enterprises undertake to take steps, within their respective capacities and through accountable infrastructure, to facilitate equitable and secure access to digital and emerging technologies and means of communication in order to enable individuals, associations, groups, and peoples to express and share international solidarity ideas without discrimination.

8. International Solidarity can be effectively implemented by way of the adoption and pursuit of domestic and international policies and programmes by States, international organisations, faith institutions, and local community networks to promote and protect international solidarity exchanges between civil society based on cultural diversity and engagement. Solidarity education programs to promote mutual respect, tolerance, non-discrimination, social justice, interfaith cooperation, girls' empowerment, and peaceful dialogue should be supported.

9. States undertake to adopt legislative, administrative, budgetary or other measures, that may include solidarity agreements, to facilitate access to technology, financing and infrastructure, or just and sustainable energy within their respective capabilities.

10. The reform of multilateral financial institutions is necessary to improve inclusivity and representativeness in international solidarity with States.

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[31] A/HRC/RES/59/3person

11. Official Development Assistance requires the solidarity fulfilment by States of their development financing commitments, including technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to address gaps and inequalities between developed and developing countries,

12. In implementing this Declaration, States are encouraged to act consistently in solidarity with their existing obligations and commitments under multilateral environmental agreements and frameworks related to sustainable development, including those adopted under the United Nations system.

Article 8

Nothing in the present Declaration shall be construed as being contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, or as implying that any person, natural or legal, people, group or State has a right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the violation of the rights set forth in international human rights instruments.

Nothing in this Declaration authorizes the use of force or other coercive measure against another state in breach of the UN Charter.