

Committee: Human Rights Committee

Issue: Enhancing the Human Rights Council resolution 35/21, adopted in June 2017

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I) Introduction

Human Rights have been at the centre of several debates for decades. Starting by the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948, milestone of the fight against human rights violations, the UN and other intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) have always been at the forefront inviting States to respect such rights and helping them to do so.

In order to let every UN Member the possibility to align to international Human Rights policies, it is clear that development and cooperation between States is fundamental. Not all governments do have equal means to ensure basic freedoms such as: life, speech, thought and freedom from slavery; for this purpose, the UN and other IGOs fully supports all forms of cooperation between countries - such as: More Developed Countries (MDCs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), LDCs and other LDCs; the triangular cooperation between MDCs, multilateral organizations and LDCs - that implied the sharing of capital, knowledge and means to support the development of above-mentioned countries and, consequently, to decrease Human Rights violations.

II) HRC Resolution 35/21 : The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights

Respecting Human Rights is matter of concern that has both national and international aspects. In order to preserve human dignity, it is essential for Countries to recognize every basic human right such as: freedom of action, speech, thought and the ban of every form of slavery, torture and discrimination. But the acknowledgement of such principles is anything but the beginning of the achievement of equality and respect between humans. Adopting human rights assumptions and safeguarding their respect in a Country is not sufficient to contribute to their enjoyment.

The development of such rights in a global view is a matter of cooperating and “treat(ing -ed.) human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis”.

It is also evident that fundamental rights are enhanced by defending international factors such as Environment preservation, sustainable development, the fight against poverty and hunger. Those are aspects of society that can only be ensured by international community.

Therefore, it is fundamental to stress the cooperation between all Nations, allowing them to reach a balanced economic and social position in the global community so as to ensure equal means to work on the respect of human rights.

The solidarity between States aims to ensure, besides the economic and social aspects, an inclusive development for LDCs in the field of human rights. It is achieved through South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and North-South cooperation.

Cooperation started essentially after the decolonization. New born Countries were not enough economically developed and they felt the need to tackle old colonialism and the exploitation of poor nations by promoting an economical and cultural cooperation between States of the Global South. Such States, in 1955, met in the Bandung Conference (Asian-African Conference). 29 LDCs held aforesaid conference, representing almost 54% of World’s population at the time.

The most important representation of South-South Cooperation is the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), a group of Nations from the Global South that "struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, racism, and all forms of foreign aggression, occupation, domination, interference or hegemony as well as against great power and bloc politics". This movement promotes the solidarity of Global South States and also promotes the respect of universal human rights, even though it strongly supports the protection of cultural diversity in specific regions.

The 2030 Agenda

Sustainable Development is one of the main weapons against Human Rights violations. The United Nations in 2015 set 17 goals to achieve before 2030 that promote, inter alia, the enhancement of efforts for the respect of Human Rights:

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

The main advantages of the 2030 Agenda are the feasibility of its goals on a global scale and the respect of single national realities and policies while maintaining the international commitment. Sustainable Development is considered to be a "natural" approach to the fight against human rights inequalities. As a matter of fact, ending factors such as hunger, poverty and health issues could bring directly and naturally to relevant achievements in the human rights sphere. This includes reaching the right to a dignified life, a fundamental principle.

Reasons to enhance the HRC Resolution 35/21

- International institutions for Human Rights' respect are being criticized of failure
- The lack or the significant decrease of efforts in certain States in defending Human Rights
- The 2030 Agenda's deadline is approaching and Member States need to get involved even more

III) Key Nations, NGOs and UN organizations

The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and [its members](#). In particular, founding members (Egypt, India, Ghana and Indonesia) and Venezuela.

Pakistan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka as organizing Nations of the Bandung Conference together with Indonesia and India.

Kenya, as the hosting Nation of 2009 Conference on South-South Cooperation.

The Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

IV) Key events and previous attempts to solve the issue

The Bandung Conference, in 1955, where twenty-nine States from the Global South met with the purpose of economic and social cooperation between Asia and Africa and to end colonialism in Global South Countries.

The creation of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961 in Belgrade, Serbia.

The creation of the Group of 77 – G77- in 1964, which defends economic interests of LDCs in South America, Africa and Asia

In 1974, The General Assembly, in its resolution A/3251, creates a special unit held by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the aim of promoting cooperation between LDCs. This unit will be named Special Unit for Technical Cooperation between Developing Countries (TCDC) – Lately, in 2013, it will be renamed as the Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).

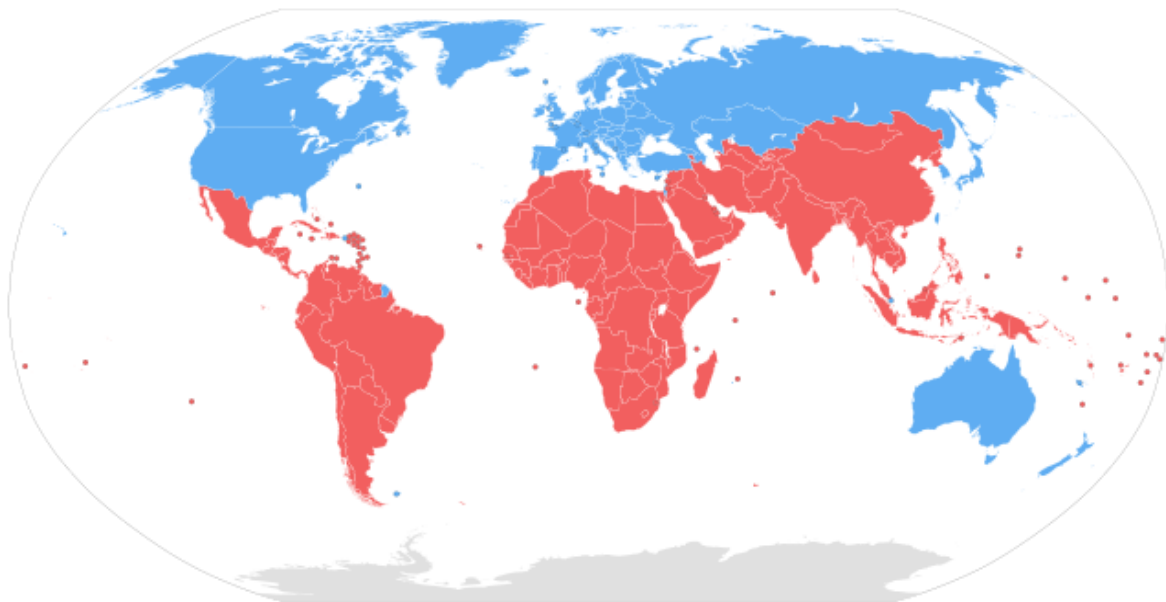
In 1978 the United Nations started promoting South-South Cooperation alongside North-South and triangular Cooperation, so as to avoid economic and political issues between the Global North and the Global South countries. A conference was held in Buenos Aires adopting the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA) for the implementation of South-South Cooperation in 15 focal areas and least developed Countries.

In 2009, the High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation is held in Nairobi, Kenya. The produced Nairobi outcome document highlights the roles that national governments, regional entities and UN agencies are to play in supporting and implementing South-South and triangular cooperation.

VI) Key terms

Global North – (Blue countries in the map) Countries with highly developed Economic and Social policies. It includes the United States, Canada, Europe, Russia, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Australia and New Zealand

Global South – (Red countries in the map) Developing countries or LDCs. It refers to countries with large inequalities in living standards, life expectancy, and access to resources and includes States from Africa, Latin America, Asia and the Middle East



North-South Cooperation – The cooperation between States from the Global North and the Global South, which aims to end poverty and to help the Global South in its development

South-South Cooperation – The cooperation between States from the Global South which aims to share experiences and means in order to fill the inequality economic gap between Global North and South

Triangular cooperation – The “collaboration in which traditional donor countries (Global North countries – ed.) and multilateral organizations facilitate South-South initiatives through the provision of funding, training, management and technological systems as well as other forms of support”

Cooperation and Solidarity

VII) Useful links

“HRC Resolution 35/21 The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights” Human Rights Documents, http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/35/21

“HRC Resolution 35/8 Enhancement of international cooperation in Human Rights.” Human Rights Documents, http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/35/8

“General Assembly Resolution 70/1 Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

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“Non-Aligned Movement.” Wikipedia, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Non-Aligned_Movement

“General Assembly Resolution 70/1 Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” <https://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

“South-South Development Cooperation: A Challenge to the Aid System?”

www.realityofaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/ROA-SSDC-Special-Report1.pdf

“About South-South and Triangular Cooperation.” UNOSSC, www.unsouthsouth.org/about/about-sstc/

“HRC Resolution 35/21.” Human Rights Documents,

http://ap.ohchr.org/documents/dpage_e.aspx?si=A/HRC/RES/35/21