

PROTECTING THE INDEPENDENCE, ACCESS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND SPECIAL PROCEDURES

RESOLUTION

The 44th Plenary Assembly of the World Federation of United Nations Associations,

Recognising that the United Nations Special Procedures system, including Special Rapporteurs, Independent Experts and Working Groups, is one of the most important mechanisms through which the United Nations promotes and protects human rights, supports accountability, and assists Member States to fulfil their international obligations,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, establishing the Human Rights Council, and that Special Rapporteurs are independent experts appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council pursuant to Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1, on institution-building, and 5/2, on the Code for Special Procedure Mandate Holders, both of 18 June 2007 to provide impartial advice, conduct country visits, engage with governments and civil society, identify emerging risks, share international good practice and make recommendations to strengthen the implementation of international law and human rights standards,

Underlining the centrality of the notions of impartiality and objectivity as well as the expertise of mandate holders,

Recognising that Member States voluntarily assume obligations under international treaties and that engagement with Special Procedures is an important component of the international accountability framework established to support those commitments,

Acknowledging the substantial contribution that Special Rapporteurs have made over many decades to advancing human rights, promoting good governance, strengthening institutions, identifying emerging risks and supporting policy reform across a wide range of issues, including Indigenous rights, children's rights, disability rights, violence against women, environmental protection, unilateral coercive measures, right to food, access to justice and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, amongst others, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories,

Recognising that constructive engagement with Special Rapporteurs provides Member States with access to independent expertise that can inform policy development, legislative reform, institutional improvement and investment decisions, supporting more effective implementation of international obligations and strengthening outcomes for communities,

Concerned by growing evidence as documented in Human Rights Council Resolution 60/25 (2025) and successive reports of the Secretary-General on the



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cooperation with the United Nations (most recently A/HRC/60/62) that, in some jurisdictions, Special Rapporteurs and other Special Procedures mandate holders are increasingly encountering restrictions on access, delays in cooperation, public attacks on their legitimacy, reprisals against those who engage with them, or obstacles to carrying out their mandates effectively,

Further concerned that denial of access to places of detention contrary to the spirit of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, A/RES/57/199 of 2002, restrictions on country visits, and efforts to undermine the independence or credibility of Special Procedures may weaken confidence in international accountability mechanisms and diminish the effectiveness of the United Nations human and environmental rights system,

Recognising that transparency, cooperation and independent scrutiny are essential features of democratic governance and contribute to improved public policy, stronger institutions and public trust,

Affirming the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993) and the international human rights and environmental treaties that underpin the work of the United Nations system;

1. Reaffirms its strong support for the independence, integrity and effectiveness of United Nations Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council;
2. Recognises Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council as a valuable resource for Member States, providing independent expertise, constructive recommendations, and international experience;
3. Expresses concern regarding instances in which Special Procedures mandate holders are denied access, experience unreasonable restrictions, encounter barriers that impede the effective discharge of their mandates, or are subject to actions or public statements that undermine their independence, credibility, legitimacy or personal safety;
4. Calls upon all United Nations Member States to cooperate fully and in good faith in accordance with their national legislation and international obligations with Special Procedures, in accordance with relevant Human Rights Council and General Assembly Resolutions;
5. Encourages the United Nations Human Rights Council, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant UN bodies to strengthen transparency regarding the level of cooperation provided by Member States to Special Procedures, the compliance of Special Rapporteurs with their code of conduct, and to develop mechanisms that encourage and recognise good practice;
6. Requests WFUNA to:
 - a. Advocate within relevant United Nations forums for stronger accountability and transparency regarding cooperation with Special Procedures,
 - b. Support efforts to protect the independence, safety and legitimacy of mandate holders,
 - c. Promote public understanding of the role and value of Special Rapporteurs and other Special Procedures, including through the work of its member UNAs,
 - d. Facilitate the exchange of information and good practice among member associations regarding engagement with Special Procedures and treaty-monitoring mechanisms, including coordinating a global record,

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- e. Report periodically to its constituency on developments affecting the effectiveness and independence of Special Procedures;
- 7. Encourages all WFUNA Member Associations to engage constructively with their national governments:
 - a. Reaffirm support for the independence and legitimacy of United Nations Special Procedures,
 - b. Promote timely and constructive cooperation with country visits, requests for information and follow-up processes,
 - c. Facilitate access by authorised UN experts to relevant institutions, including places of detention, consistent with international obligations and domestic law,
 - d. Develop clear national or intergovernmental protocols that support cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms,
 - e. Increase public awareness of the contribution Special Rapporteurs make to transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in public policy and governance;
- 8. Invites WFUNA member associations to monitor and report, through appropriate channels, on examples of both good practice and barriers to cooperation with Special Procedures, with a view to strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations human rights system globally.