

Draft resolution on the situation of human rights in Belarus

The Human Rights Council,

Pp1 Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other applicable human rights instruments,

Pp2 Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 17/24 of 14 July 2011, and *deploring* the lack of cooperation by the Government of Belarus with the requests of the Council made in that resolution, including the denial of access of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and of several thematic Special Procedures to the country,

Pp3 Welcoming the oral and comprehensive¹ reports of the High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Belarus, presented to the Council at its eighteenth and twentieth session respectively, and *regretting* the lack of implementation by the Government of Belarus of the preliminary recommendations contained in the oral report,

1. Expresses grave concern about the findings of the report of the High Commissioner that suggest the existence of a pattern of serious violations of human rights since 19 December 2010 that is of a systemic nature and includes intensified restrictions on the fundamental freedoms of association, assembly, opinion and expression, including with respect to the media, as well as allegations of torture and ill-treatment in custody, impunity of perpetrators of human rights violations and abuses, harassment of civil society organisations and human rights defenders, violations of due process and fair trial safeguards, and pressure on defence lawyers;
2. *Urges* the Government of Belarus to immediately and unconditionally release and rehabilitate all political prisoners, to address, through comprehensive, transparent and credible investigations, reports of torture and ill-treatment, to implement all other recommendations contained in the report, and to put an immediate end to arbitrary detention of human rights defenders, the increased use of short-term arbitrary detentions and arbitrary travel bans aimed at intimidating representatives of the political opposition and the media, as well as human rights defenders and civil society;
3. *Decides* to appoint a Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus in order to monitor the human rights situation in Belarus and provide recommendations for its improvement; help implement the recommendations contained in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; assist the Government of Belarus to fulfil its human rights obligations; offer support and advice to civil society; seek, receive, examine and act on information from all relevant stakeholders pertaining to the situation of human rights in Belarus; and to report annually to the Human Rights Council and to the General Assembly in accordance with their respective programmes of work;
4. *Calls upon* the Government of Belarus to fully cooperate with the Special Rapporteur and to provide him/her access to visit the country as well as the necessary information to facilitate the fulfilment of the mandate;
5. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to provide the Special Rapporteur with the assistance and resources necessary to allow the fulfilment of the mandate.

¹ A/HRC/20/8