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

Human rights and cultural diversity

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [78/201](#) on human rights and cultural diversity, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity.

* [A/80/150](#).

** The present document was submitted to the conference services for processing after the deadline so as to include the most recent information.



I. Introduction

1. This report is presented pursuant to General Assembly resolution 78/201 on human rights and cultural diversity, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the resolution, including efforts undertaken at the national, regional and international levels regarding the recognition and importance of cultural diversity, and taking into account the views of Member States, relevant United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, to be submitted to the Assembly at its eightieth session.

2. Following a call for submissions issued on 3 June 2025 and published online, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) received a total of 19 contributions, including 5 originating from Member States, 1 from a national human rights institution, 1 from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and several submissions from non-governmental organizations and individuals, summaries of which are provided in sections II to V below. A summary of relevant information originating from the United Nations human rights system is also included in the present report.

3. OHCHR wishes to thank those States, entities and individuals that have submitted information. The submissions have not been fact-checked or verified by OHCHR.

II. Summary of information received from Governments

A. Azerbaijan

4. The Constitution guarantees all people's right to retain their nationality, and all are entitled to the right to equality and freedom regardless of their race, ethnic origin, religion, language, gender, social status, political views or other factors. All citizens have the right to receive education in their mother tongue and to preserve, learn, promote and develop their ethnic and religious identity and ethnocultural heritage; this includes the right to freedom of information.

5. Azerbaijan is taking measures to promote cultural diversity and ethnic and religious tolerance. Such measures include the implementation of State policies to preserve the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of its population. Over 15 newspapers are published in ethnic languages, and there are five local television and radio channels operating in areas predominantly inhabited by minorities.

6. The Baku International Multiculturalism Centre, established by presidential decree on 15 May 2014, promotes tolerance and the preservation of cultural, religious and linguistic diversity in Azerbaijan. In 2024, the Centre organized and participated in a series of local and international conferences, symposiums, roundtable discussions and forums on topics such as intercultural dialogue, the rights and freedoms of ethnic and religious minorities, the promotion of multiculturalism and tolerance, and the importance of equal integration of peoples and faiths. Furthermore, in May 2025, the Centre organized the third International Conference on Combating Islamophobia in partnership with 11 international organizations, bringing together over 200 prominent scholars, religious leaders and media representatives from 40 countries.

B. Guatemala

7. Guatemala has undertaken active measures to promote programmes and projects that recognize and foster cultural diversity. The Directorate General for Cultural

Development of the Ministry of Culture and Sport supports the integration of the cultural dimension into public service through training programmes, targeting a wide range of officials in public institutions. It also plays an active role in coordinating mechanisms such as the Indigenous Peoples' Commission under the National Urban and Rural Development Council, which provides a space for dialogue and consultation among representatives of Indigenous Peoples, civil society and State institutions, ensuring that decisions respect the identity and collective rights of Indigenous Peoples.

8. The Guatemalan authorities have implemented various projects to preserve and strengthen local cultures and Indigenous languages. The Directorate General for Cultural Development has also organized cultural activities such as exhibitions of giant kites and workshops to preserve and strengthen cultural identity. Initiatives to promote the economic sustainability of traditional culture have been carried out, including the provision of supplies and technical support to innovate traditional crafts. Measures to protect and revitalize Indigenous languages include the translation of literature and audiobooks into Kaqchikel and K'iche', and coordination of the Expert Committee for the Recovery and Revitalization of the Itza' Mayan Language. Guatemala has also established a digital platform containing updated information on the elements that contribute to the development and preservation of Guatemalan cultural expressions, which serves as a guiding instrument for policymaking regarding the cultural development of Indigenous Peoples.

9. At the local level, Guatemala promotes cultural diversity by enhancing community participation in cultural activities and decision-making. The institutional composition of the Directorate General, which includes staff from all four local Indigenous communities and 14 linguistic communities, reflects the country's cultural diversity. These personnel contribute an intercultural perspective to the design, implementation and evaluation of cultural programmes. The Directorate General also supports the Cultural Development House, which serves as community-based cultural space to foster the arts, intercultural dialogue and grass-roots-level decision-making. Additional measures include the establishment of local cultural management centres for training, research, documentation and the promotion of every community's cultural heritage.

C. Iraq

10. The Constitution stipulates that all people have equal status under the law and prohibits discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, nationality, origin, colour, religion, sect, opinion or economic or social status. The Constitution further states that Iraq is a country of multiple nationalities, religions and sects, and guarantees full religious rights and freedom of belief and practice to all individuals, including Christians, Yazidis and Sabaeen Mandaeans. In addition, the electoral law grants certain minority groups a quota of seats in the parliament, ensuring their representation is guaranteed, including when they choose to participate through the electoral lists. These measures aim to ensure that the political and legal systems reflect the multicultural diversity of society in order to safeguard the functioning of democratic institutions and prevent the marginalization and exclusion of and discrimination against any sector of society, in particular Indigenous Peoples.

11. The education system in Iraq is aimed at achieving equality and equal opportunities for all citizens. The curriculum is designed to create an open-minded and educated generation that embraces diversity and peaceful coexistence. The Constitution guarantees the right of children belonging to minority communities to receive education in their mother tongue, which could include Turkmen, Syriac and

Armenian, in both public and private educational institutions. The Official Languages Act No. 7 of 2014 designates Arabic and Kurdish as the official languages, while also recognizing and protecting other languages such as Turkmen, Syriac, Armenian and Mandaic.

12. The Iraqi authorities have taken measures to promote cultural diversity within society, including in the media, public spaces, the workforce and within cultural, social and educational institutions, including among their staff. Satellite television channels in Arabic, Kurdish, Turkmen, Assyrian and Syriac have been established. In addition, magazines and books are published in minority languages. In addition, a dedicated department for cultural diversity was created in the Ministry of Culture, which is tasked with preserving the country's diverse linguistic and cultural heritage, disseminating cultural and creative activities and promoting the country's culture.

D. Peru

13. Peru is taking active measures to promote cultural diversity and multilingualism. The country has developed educational policies to promote the teaching and preservation of Indigenous languages. The National Radio and Television Institute of Peru produces, broadcasts and disseminates educational, informative and culture-related content at the national level, including programmes in Indigenous languages. The Institute also produces and broadcasts audiovisual content that promotes freedom of expression, multilingualism, access to the arts, scientific-technological knowledge and media pluralism. Moreover, Peru commemorates national and international events, such as International Mother Language Day, Zero Discrimination Day and World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development.

E. Saudi Arabia

14. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a State Party to the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions of 2005, having acceded to it in May 2023. The Kingdom has also ratified the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972 and the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of 2003. Eight sites in the Kingdom have been inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, most recently, the Al-Faw Archaeological Area in 2024. The Ministry of Culture, established in 2018, is responsible for the implementation of the abovementioned conventions, the provisions of which have been integrated into relevant regulatory frameworks, policies and procedures. In addition, the Kingdom has issued the national strategy for culture, which establishes 11 independent commissions tasked with fulfilling obligations arising from the conventions, licencing cultural activities and implementing culture-related initiatives.

15. In 2019, the Ministry of Culture promulgated its cultural vision for the Kingdom, which is aimed at fostering cultural diversity and inclusion, enriching individuals' lifestyle, contributing to strengthening national identity and encouraging cultural dialogue with the international community. Cultural diversity was established as a core pillar of national identity. The Ministry actively promotes tolerance and coexistence by undertaking measures to combat racial discrimination. To this effect, the Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with relevant entities, has taken measures to promote cultural diversity by providing employment opportunities to non-Saudi nationals at event venues; publishing the Cultural Status Report, which highlights Saudi culture; offering the Writing Retreats Initiative, which is organized by the

Literature, Publishing and Translation Commission; and documenting and archiving cultural heritage through quality initiatives.

16. The Ministry of Culture has further developed a comprehensive strategy to modernize cultural infrastructure and enhance its accessibility. A plan to modernize 153 public libraries across the Kingdom was approved, and various awareness-raising campaigns and community programmes have been organized to promote a culture of reading and the dissemination of knowledge, including literacy workshops and youth reading events. The Kingdom organizes an annual film festival, which attracts an international audience. The Saudi National Orchestra and Choir tours the world to promote intercultural dialogue in the field of music.

17. In 2023, UNESCO and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under a funds-in-trust agreement established in 2021, launched five projects. These projects focus primarily on supporting social and economic development through heritage preservation and the safeguarding of intangible heritage in the African continent.¹

III. Summary of relevant information originating from the United Nations human rights system

18. During the reporting period, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights made observations and recommendations related to cultural diversity to States Parties,² focusing on the preservation, promotion and dissemination of diverse cultures, in particular the cultures of religious, ethnic or linguistic minorities, Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent and Roma communities.³ The Committee also recommended that States Parties take adequate measures to protect the cultural and religious sites of ethnic and religious minorities and conduct awareness-raising campaigns for the general public with a view to promoting and increasing tolerance for cultural diversity,⁴ and foster an environment that values diversity and plurality, which enables minorities to freely express their identities and share their language and culture.⁵ The Committee also raised concerns about the increasing levels of hostility based on culture, ethnicity or gender, both online and by public figures, and recommended that States Parties ensure non-discrimination in cultural participation and combat all forms of intolerance or hate speech in political discourse and in the media.⁶

19. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination issued observations and recommendations concerning the promotion and protection of cultural diversity.⁷ The Committee expressed concerns regarding the increase of racist hate speech and hate crimes directed towards ethnic minority groups, ethno-religious minorities and

¹ See <https://whc.unesco.org/en/news/2597>.

² See [E/C.12/HRV/CO/2](#); [E/C.12/QAT/CO/1](#); [E/C.12/BRA/CO/3](#); [E/C.12/RWA/CO/5](#); [E/C.12/GBR/CO/7](#); [E/C.12/MRT/CO/2](#); [E/C.12/POL/CO/7](#); and [E/C.12/PRT/CO/5](#).

³ See [E/C.12/QAT/CO/1](#), paras. 54 and 55; [E/C.12/BRA/CO/3](#), paras. 19 and 20; [E/C.12/RWA/CO/5](#), paras. 60 and 61; [E/C.12/GBR/CO/7](#), paras. 58 and 59; and [E/C.12/MRT/CO/2](#), paras. 56 and 57.

⁴ See [E/C.12/HRV/CO/2](#), para. 53.

⁵ See [E/C.12/BRA/CO/3](#), para. 20; and [E/C.12/MRT/CO/2](#), para. 57.

⁶ See [E/C.12/POL/CO/7](#), paras. 54 and 55; [E/C.12/HRV/CO/2](#), paras. 18, 19, 52 and 53; and [E/C.12/PRT/CO/5](#), paras. 36 and 37.

⁷ See [CERD/C/DEU/CO/23-26](#); [CERD/C/PRT/CO/18-19](#); [CERD/C/VNM/CO/15-17](#); [CERD/C/SAU/CO/10-11](#); [CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27](#); [CERD/C/IRQ/CO/26-27](#); [CERD/C/BIH/CO/14-15](#); [CERD/C/MAR/CO/19-21](#); [CERD/C/ZAF/CO/9-11](#); [CERD/C/HRV/CO/9-14](#); [CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26](#); [CERD/C/ALB/CO/13-14](#); [CERD/C/MDA/CO/12-14](#); [CERD/C/ITA/CO/21](#); [CERD/C/QAT/CO/22-23](#); and [CERD/C/BGR/CO/23-25](#).

non-nationals,⁸ which are often exacerbated by the absence of, or gaps in, national laws prohibiting such acts.⁹ In this regard, the Committee recommended that States Parties establish legal and institutional frameworks to identify, record, investigate, prosecute and punish all acts of racist hate speech and hate crimes.¹⁰ The Committee further encouraged States Parties to incorporate human rights principles and respect for diversity into school curricula at all levels and implement awareness-raising programmes targeting the general public.¹¹ It also recommended that all public service personnel, in particular teachers, law enforcement officials, prosecutors and the judiciary, receive training on the principle of non-discrimination and respect for cultural diversity.¹²

20. The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities issued observations and recommendations regarding cultural diversity and the rights of persons with disabilities.¹³ The Committee expressed concerns about the absence of policies to promote the cultural and linguistic identity of deaf persons, and the lack of inclusivity and accessibility of cultural sites and activities to persons with disabilities.¹⁴ The Committee recommended that States Parties improve and promote cultural diversity in society, particularly the cultural and linguistic identity of the deaf community, and ensure access to cultural activities for persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others.¹⁵

21. During the reporting period, several recommendations on cultural diversity were issued in the context of the universal periodic review process. These included, for example, recommendations for Member States to take adequate measures to protect and promote cultural diversity;¹⁶ to ensure further the full and unrestricted enjoyment by persons belonging to minorities of their cultural rights and their right to education, as well as to protect their cultural diversity, practices and heritage;¹⁷ and to continue efforts to combat and eradicate all forms of discrimination, racism and xenophobia, promoting tolerance and cultural diversity in all spheres.¹⁸

22. The Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights addressed issues related to cultural diversity in her reports on her country visits.¹⁹ The Special Rapporteur expressed concerns about the lack of diversity in public spaces and cultural institutions; the increasing trend of intolerance towards the cultural identities of LGBTIQ+ persons, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, Indigenous Peoples and people of African descent; and the disturbing rise of right-wing extremism.²⁰ In view

⁸ See CERD/C/DEU/CO/23-26, para. 15; and CERD/C/PRT/CO/18-19, para. 21.

⁹ See CERD/C/VNM/CO/15-17, para. 14; CERD/C/SAU/CO/10-11, para. 19; and CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26, para. 10 (a).

¹⁰ See CERD/C/DEU/CO/23-26, para. 16; CERD/C/PRT/CO/18-19, para. 22; and CERD/C/MAR/CO/19-21, para. 18 (a).

¹¹ See CERD/C/IRN/CO/20-27, para. 41; CERD/C/IRQ/CO/26-27, para. 41; CERD/C/BIH/CO/14-15, para. 40; CERD/C/MAR/CO/19-21, para. 42; CERD/C/ALB/CO/13-14, para. 39; CERD/C/MDA/CO/12-14, para. 32; and CERD/C/ITA/CO/21, para. 37.

¹² See CERD/C/VNM/CO/15-17, para. 17 (d); CERD/C/PRT/CO/18-19, para. 22 (a); CERD/C/SAU/CO/10-11, para. 50; CERD/C/DEU/CO/23-26, paras. 16 (b), 18 (f) and 50; CERD/C/ZAF/CO/9-11, para. 45; CERD/C/HRV/CO/9-14, para. 32; CERD/C/RUS/CO/25-26, para. 36; and CERD/C/QAT/CO/22-23, para. 47.

¹³ See CRPD/C/BLR/CO/1; and CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3.

¹⁴ See CRPD/C/BLR/CO/1, para. 59; and CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 67.

¹⁵ See CRPD/C/BLR/CO/1, para. 60; and CRPD/C/DEU/CO/2-3, para. 68.

¹⁶ See A/HRC/58/5, para. 124.232; A/HRC/56/6, paras. 22.289, 22.294 and 22.296; and A/HRC/55/17, para. 44.249.

¹⁷ See A/HRC/56/6, para. 22.289.

¹⁸ See A/HRC/54/5, paras. 45.71, 45.75, 45.299, 45.308, 45.312 and 45.323.

¹⁹ See A/HRC/55/44/Add.1; and A/HRC/58/60/Add.1.

²⁰ See A/HRC/55/44/Add.1, paras. 61–75.

of these challenges, the Special Rapporteur emphasized the need to ensure diversity within the civil service and public bodies by encouraging the meaningful participation of minorities in programming and decision-making processes and by pursuing actions against discrimination or hate speech, as suggested by the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity.²¹ The Special Rapporteur also encouraged a Member State to promote the value of cultural diversity in all aspects of society, including by disseminating information regarding the contributions of minorities to the collective memory and interculturality of the country.²²

23. The Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples expressed concern that the lack of culturally appropriate education programmes had hampered the educational development of Indigenous children in a Member State and recommended integrating Indigenous cultural diversity into the education programme.²³ The Special Rapporteur on the right to education noted the significance of linguistic diversity in education for children of Indigenous groups and migrants.²⁴

IV. Summary of information received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

24. UNESCO considers cultural rights as enabling both the conditions for and outcomes of cultural diversity. In line with this vision, UNESCO advances global advocacy on themes such as artistic freedom, cultural rights of marginalized groups, protection of cultural rights in emerging challenges, including those posed by the digital transformation, and climate change and crises affecting cultural heritage, and promotes their mainstreaming in global policy dialogues.

25. A key milestone was the 2022 UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, which positioned cultural rights as a core priority of advocacy for culture in sustainable development. The momentum achieved by the Conference is reflected in recent high-level outcomes, such as the Global Digital Compact adopted at the 2024 Summit of the Future, which includes commitments to safeguarding cultural diversity in the digital environment, and the 2024 Group of Seven ministerial declaration entitled, “Culture, common good of humanity, common responsibility”.

26. The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development of 2025 will take place from 29 September to 1 October 2025, offering a platform for global ministerial dialogue to review progress since 2022 and address persisting issues and emerging challenges, including those posed by the digital transformation and climate change. The outcome document of the Conference is expected to set out principles for embedding cultural rights in policy frameworks at all levels. During the Conference, UNESCO will launch a publication entitled, “Culture for All: A Toolkit for Gender Equality in Cultural Policymaking”, which is aimed at providing guidance for the integration of gender perspectives in cultural governance.

27. In 2023, UNESCO established a working group on cultural rights within its Inter-Agency Platform on Culture for Sustainable Development. The group has issued a factsheet on culture and human rights and developed training modules on cultural

²¹ See [A/HRC/59/40/Add.1](#), paras. 52, 54 (h) and 54 (q).

²² See [A/HRC/58/60/Add.1](#), paras. 75 and 100 (c).

²³ See [A/HRC/57/47/Add.1](#), paras. 116 (a) and 116 (c).

²⁴ See [A/HRC/56/58/Add.1](#), paras. 73–88.

rights for United Nations country teams. It further seeks to reinforce monitoring and accountability for cultural rights across existing human rights mechanisms.

28. UNESCO supports Member States in building frameworks to advance cultural rights and safeguard the diversity of cultural expressions, especially in the digital cultural economy, and to ensure equitable international cultural exchanges in cultural trade and artistic mobility. It also addresses challenges linked to the over-commercialization of intangible cultural heritage, as reflected in its guidance note on the economic dimensions of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, which provides considerations for integrating market engagement within safeguarding strategies while recognizing the diversity of economic impacts across contexts.

29. With regard to artistic freedom, UNESCO has engaged in regular consultations with national authorities to support their capacity-building efforts and has issued guidelines on the protection of artistic freedom and the rights of artists and cultural professionals. It encourages the establishment of legal frameworks and mechanisms to protect artistic freedom and promote recognition of artists as cultural rights defenders and promotes socioeconomic rights through the UNESCO-Aschberg Programme for Artists and Cultural Professionals.

30. UNESCO continues to strengthen its cooperation with Indigenous Peoples. In May 2025, it held a workshop with Indigenous representatives and experts on integrating free, prior and informed consent across the World Heritage system. It also promotes linguistic diversity and revitalization through documentation and digitization projects. At its 2025 World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development, UNESCO will launch a new publication showcasing examples of Indigenous knowledge related to the environment and climate.

V. Summary of information received from national human rights institutions: Mexico

31. According to the National Human Rights Commission, Mexico has adopted a comprehensive framework of national and local measures to promote and protect cultural diversity, in accordance with its international obligations. The Government has supported the preservation of diverse cultural expressions through institutions such as the Secretariat of Culture, the Directorate General of Folk, Indigenous and Urban Cultures, and the National Museum of Folk Cultures. The National Institute of Indigenous Peoples and the National Institute for Indigenous Languages, together with the National Human Rights Commission, play a central role in promoting the rights and heritage of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities through linguistic preservation, intercultural dialogue, multilingual education, advocacy and outreach.

32. Constitutional reforms adopted in 2024 formally recognized Indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples, harmonizing legislation across sectors, including the education, health and justice sectors. Mexico City's legal framework further affirms intercultural and minority rights, gender parity and cultural heritage. Political participation quotas have increased representation of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities in elected bodies.

33. The National Human Rights Commission notes that the country has strengthened freedom of expression, media pluralism and multilingualism. The 2024 telecommunications policy reforms enabled Indigenous and Afro-descendant communities to establish their own media, including the first Afro-Mexican broadcasting concession.

34. Additional measures include 17 justice and regional development plans, a presidential decree safeguarding sacred sites and the creation of national mechanisms for Indigenous rights. The judiciary has adopted intercultural protocols and multilingual resources to ensure equitable access to justice. Mexico City promotes inclusive public spaces through community centres, cultural entrepreneurship and legal protections for heritage areas. The National Human Rights Commission continues to support community organizations in upholding cultural rights. The Commission considers that these actions reflect the sustained commitment of Mexico to building an inclusive, equitable and culturally diverse society.

VI. Summary of information received from non-governmental organizations

A. Coming Out, LGBTQ+ group

35. In the submission received, Coming Out highlights concerns regarding policy and legal restrictions faced by individuals of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities in the Russian Federation. Those restrictions have reportedly led to limitations on freedom of expression across the cultural, artistic and media domains, as well as legal actions against cultural practitioners addressing LGBTQ+ themes. The group further reports that cultural professionals are adversely affected by censorship, and subjected to economic marginalization and forced displacement owing to safety concerns. The group also emphasizes the critical importance of international cultural solidarity in supporting artists and communities at risk, alongside the need for coordinated international responses to address these challenges.

B. Plataforma per la Llengua

36. In its submission, Plataforma per la Llengua reports challenges faced by Catalan-speaking communities in France, Italy and Spain with regard to the recognition and protection of their linguistic and cultural rights. Such challenges include barriers to accessing public funding and institutional support to promote Catalan, which are largely dependent on local authorities, civil society organizations and other actors. The submission emphasizes the need for sustained legal and policy measures to protect the rights of Catalan-speaking communities.

C. South Asia Justice Campaign

37. The South Asia Justice Campaign reports concerns regarding challenges to cultural and religious diversity in India. While the Constitution provides protections for minority rights, the absence of a comprehensive anti-discrimination law, limited access to affirmative action measures and judicial interpretations have reportedly hindered the full implementation of these protections. The organization highlights that since 2014, policies have allegedly institutionalized Hindu majoritarianism through exclusionary citizenship laws, anti-conversion and cow-protection measures, and discriminatory management of religious institutions. Minority communities, including Adivasis, Christians, Dalits, Muslims and Sikhs have reportedly faced increasing restrictions on cultural expression, including with regard to their religious attire, gatherings and education. Concerns are also raised about what the organization characterizes as stigmatizing media narratives, the impact of cow-protection enforcement on certain communities and interventions affecting religious sites.

Revisions to educational curricula and public discourse are reported to reflect majoritarian narratives, raising concerns about the inclusivity of cultural representation. These developments are described as affecting the ability of minority groups to fully participate in cultural, religious, and public life.

D. Futures of Democracy, Tech & Human Rights Lab

38. In its submission, the Futures of Democracy, Tech & Human Rights Lab at American University highlights promising practices by States in promoting cultural diversity as a foundation for inclusive development, social justice and the exercise of human rights. The Special Jurisdiction for Peace in Colombia, is cited as a model of transitional justice that incorporates culturally relevant practices, enabling the meaningful participation of Indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities in judicial processes.

39. The citizens' assembly mechanism in Ireland is noted for fostering inclusive governance through deliberative processes that engage individuals from diverse backgrounds on complex societal issues.

40. Examples of national policy integration include the National Arts Council of Singapore, which supports artistic expression in four official languages through funding, translation initiatives and digital innovation. Canada is also highlighted for its financial support for the arts, multicultural policies and efforts to advance Indigenous cultural rights and representation.

41. The Race at Work Charter of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, launched in partnership with the Government and led by the charity Business in the Community, promotes workplace diversity, equity and inclusion by encouraging organizations to address barriers faced by employees of diverse ethnic backgrounds and embed fairness in leadership and recruitment practices. In the United States of America, Assembly Bill No. 101 of the legislature of the State of California mandates ethnic studies in public education. In Canada, the Municipal Universal Accessibility Plan 2024–2030 of the city of Montreal provides an inclusive urban governance model, incorporating accessibility principles across public services and infrastructure.

E. International Alliance for Peace and Development

42. In its submission, the International Alliance for Peace and Development highlights a range of positive State measures that support cultural diversity, including the 2024 migrant employment support programme of Portugal, which facilitates the integration of migrants into the tourism sector through language acquisition, vocational training and legal support programmes, and legislative reforms in Spain that enhance migrants' rights in accordance with a rights-based framework and reinforce non-discriminatory inclusion in public life. However, the Alliance notes that it remains concerned about ongoing challenges in France and Germany, including continued racial profiling by law enforcement agencies and an increase in complaints of discrimination affecting minorities' access to employment, housing and education. The Alliance considers that in the United States, the revocation of Executive Order No. 11246, which mandated equal opportunity for federal contractors, is a significant setback for anti-discrimination protections as the revocation weakens the institutional mechanisms supporting the advancement of workforce diversity and impedes progress toward ensuring equitable employment opportunities for marginalized racial and ethnic groups.

43. The Alliance further reports that several States have adopted positive national measures to uphold freedom of expression, media pluralism, linguistic diversity and equitable access to the arts, science and technology for all cultural communities. Notably, the 2025 amendments to the Integration Act of Finland promote immigrant participation in civic and cultural life through multilingual civic orientation, including in minority and migrant languages. However, the Alliance expresses concern over certain emerging policies in European countries that restrict cultural and linguistic expression. These included the 2023 prohibition in France on State-funded cultural collaborations with artists from certain African countries, and significant reductions in public cultural funding in the United Kingdom and Germany, such as the 2024 budget cuts in the city of Berlin and declining investment in the cultural sector in the United Kingdom. These measures have a disproportionate impact on minorities and hinder equitable access to artistic and intellectual expression. The Alliance also notes the February 2025 decision of the National Endowment for the Arts of the United States to terminate funding for diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, warning that such actions undermine cultural pluralism, restrict freedom of expression and contravene international human rights standards.

F. Association of Reintegration of Crimea

44. The Association of Reintegration of Crimea provided information on the reported systemic, structural and institutional discrimination against ethnic Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars in the territories of Ukraine temporarily occupied by the Russian Federation, including Crimea. Recalling General Assembly resolutions [68/262](#), [77/204](#), [78/190](#) and [79/160](#), the Association considers that anti-Ukrainian hate speech, the suppression of expressions of Ukrainian ethnic and cultural identity, the ban on Ukrainian media and websites, the destruction of Ukrainian libraries and the imposition of “Russian standards” in education, imposed by the Russian Federation in the territories it occupies in Ukraine, constitute attacks on cultural diversity.

G. Summary of submissions from a group of academics and individuals

45. A group of gender and climate technology experts affiliated with the Climate Technology Centre and Network, along with experts on cultural and environmental rights, submitted five detailed reports addressing the protection of cultural diversity in governance, drawing on national experiences from Colombia, Mauritius and South Africa.

46. In a submission concerning Colombia, the reportedly continued marginalization of the Kamentsa people, particularly through the loss of sacred lands and the exclusion of Indigenous languages from formal education, is highlighted. Concerns are raised about the commodification of Indigenous identities in public programmes. The submission includes a call for culturally appropriate legal reforms and enhanced international cooperation to support Indigenous rights and cultural heritage across Latin America.

47. Regarding Mauritius, in the submission it is noted that, while legal and policy frameworks exist to promote non-discrimination and cultural diversity in a multi-ethnic context, challenges persist. The Creole community, comprising approximately 30 per cent of the population, reportedly faces constitutional exclusion and socioeconomic marginalization. The absence of Creole culture in the national school curriculum and the limited enforcement of constitutional safeguards are cited as contributing factors, alongside a reported institutional reluctance to address systemic

discrimination. Concerns are also raised regarding the vulnerability of the electoral system to political manipulation, potentially hindering inclusive representation. Recommendations include legal and policy reforms, cultural inclusion in education, strengthened oversight mechanisms and anti-discrimination training for public officials.

48. With regard to South Africa, efforts to reconcile Indigenous cultural traditions with democratic governance following the end of apartheid are mentioned. While Indigenous leadership structures have been constitutionally recognized, the initial exclusion of Indigenous leadership from parliamentary processes reflected tensions between customary governance practices and majority-rule systems. Linguistic barriers, specifically the limited availability of governmental and parliamentary materials and consultations in Indigenous languages, along with the geographic dispersion of Indigenous communities, are also identified as challenges. Recent reforms have reportedly improved consultative inclusion and linguistic accessibility.

VII. Conclusion

49. Cultural rights and cultural diversity are essential for a dignified life and are critical for the development of inclusive, pluralistic and tolerant democratic societies. Protecting and promoting cultural diversity and cultural rights is crucial to building free, harmonious and equitable communities and peaceful societies.

50. The submissions received show that some Member States have taken measures to promote cultural diversity, including through the adoption of legal frameworks. In other submissions the need to make cultural diversity more visible and accessible in public life through libraries, festivals, literature competitions, movies and other means is emphasized. Several submissions include an emphasis on efforts to safeguard the rights of ethnic and religious minorities as well as Indigenous Peoples.
