



**OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**



The role of good governance in the promotion of human rights

Commission on Human Rights Resolution: 2004/70

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement of all peoples and all nations applying to every individual and every organ of society, and also the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), which affirmed that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Recalling its resolution 2003/65 of 24 April 2003 and all previous relevant resolutions on the role of good governance in the promotion of human rights, as well as the United Nations Millennium Declaration,

Recognizing the importance of a conducive environment, at both the national and the international levels, for the full enjoyment of all human rights and the fundamental role that good governance plays in creating and maintaining such an environment,

Recognizing also that transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, is the foundation on which good governance rests and that such a foundation is a sine qua non for the full realization of human rights, including the right to development,

Recognizing further that good governance and the building of effective democratic institutions are a continuous process for all Governments, regardless of the level of development of the countries concerned,

Noting that good governance practices necessarily vary according to the particular circumstances and needs of different societies, and that the responsibility for determining and implementing such practices, based on transparency and accountability, and for creating and maintaining an enabling environment conducive to the enjoyment of all human rights at the national level rests with the State concerned,

Welcoming the Ulaanbaatar Declaration and Plan of Action: Democracy, Good Governance and Civil Society, adopted at the Fifth International Conference of New or Restored Democracies held in Ulaanbaatar from 10 to 12 September 2003,

Recognizing the contribution of democratic values founded on good governance practices in the realization of human rights, and in this context looking forward to the forthcoming Third Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies to be held in Santiago in February 2005,

Welcoming in this regard the emphasis given in the conclusions of the fifth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development to the importance of good governance at all levels in the implementation of the right to development,

Reaffirming the importance of international and regional cooperation, when required by the States in need, in order to facilitate the implementation of good governance practices at all levels,

1. *Calls upon* States to provide transparent, responsible, accountable and participatory government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, in order to achieve the full realization of human rights;

2. *Reaffirms* the special role of good governance in development and poverty eradication, as reflected in paragraph 13 of the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

3. *Encourages*, in this context, the growing recognition of the value of partnerships among relevant actors of all levels as a solid foundation on which good governance rests, and notes that such partnerships are strengthened by, inter alia, constructive approaches to international development cooperation;

4. *Welcomes* the provision by States and intergovernmental organizations of case studies and practical examples of activities that have been effective in strengthening good governance practices for the promotion of human rights at the national level, including activities in the context of development cooperation between States;

5. *Also welcomes* the offer by the Government of the Republic of Korea to host the seminar requested in Commission resolutions 2002/76 of 25 April 2002 and 2003/65 of 24 April 2003, in Seoul in August 2004 in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights working jointly with the United Nations Development Programme;

6. *Further welcomes* the seminar's focus on essential elements of good governance, including the promotion of the rule of law, strengthening the delivery of services contributing to the realization of human rights as well as democratic institutions and participation, combating corruption in the public and private sectors, including the judiciary, as well as international cooperation, bilateral and multilateral, in support of national good governance practices;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the voluntary contributions provided by donors to date in support of the seminar and encourages additional donors to consider providing further support to the seminar;

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to invite States, national human rights institutions, relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations, other relevant international bodies and relevant national and international non-governmental organizations to attend the seminar and to report to the sixty-first session of the Commission on the outcomes of the seminar;

9. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to compile indicative ideas and practices arising from the seminar and the material provided by States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations that could be consulted by interested States when required;

10. *Decides* to continue its consideration of this question at its sixty-first session under the same agenda item.

57th meeting

21 April 2004

[Adopted without a vote. See chap. XVII.- E/2004/23 – E/CN.4/2004/127]