



# General Assembly

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## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 21 December 2010

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/65/456/Add.2 (Part II))]

### **65/207. The role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights**

*The General Assembly,*

*Reaffirming its commitment* to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,<sup>1</sup>

*Recalling* the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights on 25 June 1993,<sup>2</sup> in which the Conference reaffirmed the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions,

*Reaffirming* its resolution 63/169 of 18 December 2008 on the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights,

*Recalling* the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/134 of 20 December 1993 and annexed thereto,

*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular resolution 64/161 of 18 December 2009,

*Welcoming* the rapidly growing interest throughout the world in the creation and strengthening of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, and recognizing the important role that these institutions can play, in accordance with their mandate, in support of domestic complaint resolution,

*Recognizing* the role of the existing Ombudsman, whether a male or female, mediator and other national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

<sup>1</sup> Resolution 217 A (III).

<sup>2</sup> A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.



*Underlining* the importance of the autonomy and independence of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist, in order to enable them to consider all issues related to the field of their competences,

*Considering* the role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in promoting good governance in public administrations, as well as improving their relations with citizens, and in strengthening the delivery of public services,

*Considering also* the important role of the existing Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in contributing to the effective realization of the rule of law and respect for the principles of justice and equality,

*Stressing* that these institutions, where they exist, can play an important role in advising the Government with respect to bringing national legislation and national practices in line with their international human rights obligations,

*Stressing also* the importance of international cooperation in the field of human rights, and recalling the role played by regional and international associations of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions in promoting cooperation and sharing best practices,

*Noting with satisfaction* the establishment of the Association of Mediterranean Ombudsmen and the active continuing work of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen, the Association of Ombudsmen and Mediators of la Francophonie, the Asian Ombudsman Association, the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association, the Arab Ombudsman Network, the European Mediation Network Initiative and the International Ombudsman Institute,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;<sup>3</sup>
2. *Encourages* Member States:
  - (a) To consider the creation or the strengthening of independent and autonomous Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;
  - (b) To develop and conduct, as appropriate, outreach activities at the national level, in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, in order to raise awareness of the important role of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;
3. *Recognizes* that, in accordance with the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,<sup>2</sup> it is the right of each State to choose the framework for national institutions, including the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, which is best suited to its particular needs at the national level, in order to promote human rights in accordance with international human rights instruments;
4. *Notes* the participation of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the ninth World Conference of the International Ombudsman Institute, held in Stockholm in June 2009, and welcomes the active participation of the Office in all international and regional meetings of the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions;

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<sup>3</sup> A/65/340.

5. *Encourages* the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, through its advisory services, to develop and support activities dedicated to the existing Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions and to strengthen their role within national systems for human rights protection;

6. *Encourages* the Ombudsman, mediator and other national human rights institutions, where they exist:

(a) To operate, as appropriate, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (“the Paris Principles”)<sup>4</sup> and other relevant international instruments, in order to strengthen their independence and autonomy and to enhance their capacity to assist Member States in the promotion and protection of human rights;

(b) To request, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, their accreditation by the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, in order to enable them to interact effectively with the relevant human rights bodies of the United Nations system;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution.

*71st plenary meeting  
21 December 2010*

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<sup>4</sup> Resolution 48/134, annex.