



*American Model United Nations*  
**Commission on Crime Prevention and  
Criminal Justice**

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# **Report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on Equal access to justice for all**

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# 1 Executive Summary

2 The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice delightedly presents its final report  
3 to the Economic and Social Council on the topic of equal access to justice for all. Throughout our de-  
4 liberations, we have compiled various issues to be brought to the attention of the Economic and Social  
5 Council, including vulnerable communities' access to justice, the importance of considering crime and  
6 corruption in regard to the justice system, and the importance of maintaining state sovereignty. The  
7 body recommends for the immediate adoption of this final report by the Economic and Social Council  
8 as well as take into consideration the recommendations by this body, while focusing and taking into  
9 particular consideration the sovereignty of each Member State.

10 The first chapter of the report consists of several recommendations for the Economic and So-  
11 cial Council to take into consideration. They consider the root causes of discrimination in regards to  
12 equal access to justice in addition to other base issues. The causes described include, gender, racial,  
13 socioeconomic status, geographic location, corruption and conflict zones. The body discussed various  
14 solutions to mitigating these issues, including supporting domestic initiatives which combat racial dis-  
15 crimination and gender-based violence, establishing call centers and expanding free resource access  
16 into rural and impoverished communities, while paying close attention to state sovereignty.

17 The second chapter of the report included deliberations and minutes of both moderated and  
18 unmoderated caucuses. These deliberations outlined the priorities and urgency of each member state  
19 and their desires for action on the issue, particularly in the protection of national sovereignty and pos-  
20 sibility for integration of new and emerging technologies. Additionally, the chapter further deliberates  
21 on the importance of addressing the struggles posed by socioeconomic and geographical differences.  
22 Furthermore, there was much deliberation concerning court backlog and how this affects the expedi-  
23 ency of accessing justice. The body noted how this backlog could be solved via expansion of resources  
24 and expansion of funding to add more manpower to the Member States' judicial systems.

## 25 **2 Matters calling for action**

### 26 **2.1 Vulnerable Communities**

27 This body recognizes that one of the root causes of injustice and the lack of access to justice  
28 by many is that some people are undermined under national law. The issue is that people are legally  
29 marginalized: not being recognized as part of those whose rights must be protected by the legal sys-  
30 tem of each nation. Therefore, this body sees it as extremely important to encourage the Economic  
31 and Social Council to emphasize the upholding of the rule of law universally within each nation.

32 We recommend the Economic and Social Council creates a program to assist in the legal ed-  
33 ucation programs previously established in vulnerable communities.

### 34 **2.2 Gender**

35 This body notes the importance of advocacy for an equal judicial process for all genders in  
36 order to combat discrimination. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, discrimination based on the  
37 sex of the individual attempting to gain justice or access their nation's judicial system is a major issue  
38 in the topic at hand. This body also applauds member states which have championed programs to  
39 prevent gender based crimes against women and girls.

40 We recommend the Economic and Social Council request the support and aid of Member States  
41 for domestic programs. This will aim to provide aid and assistance to victims of Gender Based Violence  
42 (GBV) and assistance to initiatives that aim to prevent GBV at its root causes in order to allow for mul-  
43 tiple routes for accessible justice.

### 44 **2.3 Racial Discrimination and Minorities**

45 Acknowledges the disparities in access to justice globally, particularly in member states, where  
46 marginalized populations often face systemic barriers, this commission also advocates for plans to  
47 address this among indigenous populations.

48 We propose that the Economic and Social Council urge Member States to provide assistance  
49 to grassroots programs that seek to provide legal aid and education. Specifically for communities that  
50 have been historically marginalized on the basis of race or ethnicity, which denies them access to a  
51 fair and equitable justice system.

### 52 **2.4 Socioeconomic Status**

53 Noting with deep concern the disparity in living conditions and income between: upper, middle,  
54 lower, and impoverished communities; and noticing how these differences prevent individuals from  
55 fully accessing their respective justice systems. Legal aid, in almost every nation and every instance,  
56 comes with a cost. This cost is a deterring factor for individuals seeking legal aid and justice for the  
57 wrongs against them.

58 We recommend Member States invest in domestic programs that can help provide impover-  
59 ished communities the opportunity to have locally accessible and affordable legal services. If it is not  
60 pro bono, this body recommends the creations of grants or subsidies to ensure affordability.

### 61 **2.5 Geographic Location**

62 Taking note of the lack of resources for those who are isolated and require said resources to  
63 ensure access to legal aid providing them with equal access to justice.

64 This body advises the Member States to create a legal toll-free call center, the construction  
65 of which is guided by the Economic and Social Council, a location which individuals from rural loca-  
66 tions can call if they do not have access to the internet or a separate physical source to gain legal  
67 information or aid.

68 We also strongly suggest the Economic and Social Council request aid from Member States to  
69 support initiatives to construct judicial help centers in areas that lack sufficient resources. Especially  
70 focusing on areas with high crime and corruption rates.

71 If the creation of physical locations is unjustified in specific instances, the body recommends  
72 that more funding is distributed to propagate the call center information and literature, as a substitute  
73 for a lack of physical resources.

## 74 **2.6 Areas Affected by Corruption and Crime**

75 This commission understands the role of corruption and crime in the process of equal access to  
76 justice and expresses concern at the detrimental impacts of corruption, crime, discrimination, conflict,  
77 large court backlogs, and weak judicial systems on the equitable administration of justice which harms  
78 the stability and foundation of Member States. This body acknowledges the importance of the protec-  
79 tion of those who have been affected by crime as a population that is likely to underreport criminal  
80 activity or wrongs against them due to the legal implication this may have for them.

81 This body urges the Economic and Social Council to consider supporting the pre-established  
82 nation specific programs which have previously developed individualized strategies to combat cor-  
83 ruption in judicial systems, as well as high crime rates, and to expand protections and resources to  
84 those impacted by intimidation and/or corruption.

85 This body proposes the creation of a system to develop in-depth research into the types of  
86 corruption and crime that most impact access to justice. This would empower nations to develop their  
87 own programs addressing corruption and crime within their judicial systems.

88 We propose in-depth research into what makes an effective corruption prevention program,  
89 specifically with identifying which nations have been able to minimize corruption.

## 90 **2.7 Sovereignty**

91 This body recommends the Economic and Social Council create and adopt a resolution that  
92 focuses on confirming state sovereignty regarding judicial systems and rule of law similar to previous  
93 recommendations provided by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ).

94 We recommend a resolution that restates individual nations' final say in the oversight of their  
95 courts, legislative systems, and finances.

## 96 **2.8 Expansion of Judicial Access and Capacity**

97 The body recognizes that the aforementioned factors heavily limit individual pursuit of justice  
98 within their own judicial systems. The addition of framework recommendations and further devel-  
99 opment of guidelines for the creation of a legal aid service in order to provide needed legal aid to  
100 vulnerable populations would have to increase the equality in providing justice.

101 Justice has been limited in regards to resources across the globe as well. Not every nation has  
102 easily accessible attorneys, paralegals, judges and other judicial staffing in order to create a smoothly  
103 run justice system. It is imperative that the Economic and Social Council body assess solutions for  
104 attacking the lack of training, staffing, and resources that dampen the ability of individuals to obtain  
105 justice.

## 106 **2.9 Addressing Justice in Disputed Territories and Combat Zones**

107 Prioritize legal protections for displaced persons and communities under occupation, particu-  
108 larly in Ukraine, the Middle East and other conflict zones ensuring equal treatment under international  
109 law.

110 Enable access to international judicial mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court,  
111 for communities unable to seek justice locally.

112 Economic and Social Council should reiterate support for independent investigations into the  
113 human rights violations in conflict zones that prevent those displaced and affected by conflict from  
114 having access to justice.

115 Advocates for the establishment of victim assistance programs into nation justice systems.  
116 These programs should help victims navigate the legal process and gain the support they require to  
117 be able to fully recover.

## 118 **2.10 Facilitating International Cooperation and Accountability**

119 Member States and international organizations should collaborate with regional organizations,  
120 such as the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), to  
121 provide funding and technical support.

122 Encourage Member States to invest in the growth and development of justice and police sys-  
123 tems in neighboring states to encourage regional stability.

## 124 **3 Consideration of the status**

### 125 **3.1 Gender**

126 In their opening speech, the delegation of Canada made it known that they recognize the in-  
127 creased rates of violence faced particularly by women; and their efforts, both domestically and abroad,  
128 to combat it at its root causes. Several other delegations expressed their concern with this problem,  
129 and also acknowledged the historical norm of gender based violence and how it has led to systemic  
130 barriers, particularly within access to judicial resources. Canada also notes its domestic initiatives for  
131 men and boys to learn about the harmful effects of patriarchal structures and gender based vio-  
132 lence. Canada discussed with Ghana the implications of victims of gender based violence, feeling their  
133 current judicial systems lacks the ability to adequately protect and provide sufficient legal support for  
134 them. Ghana notes the possibility of a recommendation of an expansion of domestic groups to help  
135 victims of gender based violence.

136 Brazil also noted concerns regarding gender based violence in a speech and suggested moder-  
137 ation in working groups to draft a resolution to combat gender based violence. Multiple Member States  
138 met during a consultative session about addressing gender based violence, and establishing working  
139 groups to talk about ways to possibly combat it in a potential draft resolution. However, Bulgaria was  
140 not focused on gender based violence, and preferred to focus on the topic of international coopera-  
141 tion in combating transnational organized crime and corruption , whilst the United States was indeed  
142 interested in Canada's proposal to foster programs to protect victims of gender based violence.

143 Brazil, Mexico, Czechia, Guatemala, Canada, and Paraguay entered into a discussion about  
144 supporting domestic initiatives to combat gender based violence. Canada also was able to have delib-  
145 erations with Cameroon during a suspension, also finding their justice system currently inadequate to  
146 protect women from gender based violence. Cameroon seemed very receptive to Canada's thoughts  
147 on programs to prevent gender based violence. Cameroon also noted the possibility of an expansion  
148 of domestic programs to protect victims of gender based violence. Canada met with Paraguay to dis-  
149 cuss how best to protect victims of gender based violence the two nations were unable to reach a  
150 consensus.

151 Canada also had discussions with the United Kingdom about gender based violence. The  
152 United Kingdom was interested in supporting Canada in their endeavor to help initiate domestic pro-  
153 grams and participate in international cooperation to combat gender based violence. The United King-  
154 dom was also focused on a possible collaboration on the challenges posed by court backlogs. The first  
155 delegation to express their opinion on this topic was Bulgaria, who raised the issue of domestic violence,  
156 especially regarding migrants and children. Indonesia talked about rights of women and children, high-  
157 lighting the unlawful killings and domestic terrorism and how nations should work together to protect  
158 those groups, as well as people who are incarcerated and/or impoverished.

### 159 **3.2 Minorities**

160 Brazil spoke with Ghana and Cuba concerning the indigenous populations and their role in un-  
161 equal access to justice, and how their people are affected by this. Brazil further emphasized the impor-  
162 tance of education in equal access to justice, urging the committee to consider this factor in the report,  
163 especially for Latin American Member States. Ghana expressed similar concerns for African Member  
164 States. The delegation of the United Kingdom inquired about specific actions in which this objective  
165 can be achieved. Brazil responded, stating that widespread education on Indigenous communities  
166 and specific legal education catered for members of these minority communities. The delegation of  
167 Pakistan also agreed with Brazil's suggestion. Canada and Brazil noted the importance of Global South  
168 cooperation for this report to be catered specifically to minority communities, including Indigenous  
169 peoples, racial minorities, women and gender minorities.

170 The delegate from the United States of America pointed out that their Constitution outlines peo-  
171 ple's right to justice regardless of their statuses. The United States of America also generally offered  
172 financial and systemic assistance to help support the implementation of the Free Legal Aid frame-  
173 work, initially brought forth as a topic by the delegation of Ghana, They also mentioned some of its own  
174 frameworks could potentially benefit other nations.

175 South Africa spoke of considering discrimination when deliberating equal access to justice for  
176 all, recognizing that they have a relevant history with segregation that materialized in the form of the  
177 apartheid. Brazil further highlighted that minorities and marginalized communities' rights should be  
178 protected and they should be the focus of solutions proposed for equal access to justice for all.

179 The Delegation of Nigeria draws attention to the significant challenges faced by citizens in  
180 African Member States, where access to legal services is severely limited. They stress that the scarcity  
181 of public defenders and the inaccessibility of those who are available leave many without the means  
182 to seek justice. Nigeria advocates for international support to expand these critical resources, as they  
183 are foundational to ensuring equal access to justice for marginalized populations.

184 Canada questioned how diversity in legal staff would be achieved. The UK clarifies the sugges-  
185 tion would be to increase legal education for marginalized groups and ask Member States to institute  
186 such movements.

187 The Delegation of South Africa highlights the pervasive issue of racial discrimination, not only  
188 in historically affected countries but also in Western and global contexts. They advocate for inclusive  
189 language that encompasses all Member States to ensure equal access to justice worldwide. The Dele-  
190 gation of Brazil points out the critical role of education in addressing racial discrimination and systemic  
191 inequities. They argue that many justice-related issues stem from a lack of early education about dis-  
192 crimination and minority rights, suggesting that education should be included as a fundamental com-  
193 ponent of achieving equal access to justice for all. The Delegation of Indonesia supports Brazil's position,  
194 emphasizing the potential of early education to reduce racial discrimination in schools, thereby fos-  
195 tering a more equitable society and mitigating future injustices. The Delegation of Canada expresses  
196 willingness to discuss the role of education in combating discrimination but questions whether this  
197 topic falls within the purview of this body.

### 198 **3.3 Socioeconomic Status**

199 Then, the bloc shifted focus to outlining the specifics of a Legal Aid Service framework. First, the  
200 delegation from Ghana presented their ideas for increasing access to justice for the impoverished. The  
201 delegation of Ghana indicated that the problem with access to justice for all is a concern for poor  
202 populations specifically, and that their plan to develop a Legal Aid Framework to to afford equal ac-  
203 cess to people who qualify for free legal aid. Pakistan looked favorably upon discussing the framework  
204 proposed by Ghana

205 India further emphasized the need to focus on minorities and impoverished citizens, and said  
206 that they would be open to continuous reforms in the judicial system and working with other nations.  
207 They pointed out that people should be afforded equal access to justice regardless of economic status  
208 or other circumstance. India further emphasized the need to focus on minorities and impoverished  
209 citizens, and said that they would be open to continuous reforms in the judicial system and working with  
210 other nation. They pointed out that people should be afforded equal access to justice regardless of  
211 economic status or other circumstance. On Topic 1 Recommendation 6, Pakistan suggested adding a  
212 section on how to add funding for Member States that cannot afford to increase social welfare. Finland  
213 wants to suggest Member States invest on their own, Ghana clarifies Section 2 addresses Pakistan's  
214 concerns, which Pakistan agreed to.

### 215 **3.4 Geographic Location**

216 The first bloc, consisting of the delegations from Czechia, Bulgaria, the United Kingdom, Indone-  
217 sia, Cameroon, the United States of America, Libya, South Africa, Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran,  
218 Pakistan, Paraguay, Indonesia and Belarus, led by the delegation from Ghana, spoke on the first topic  
219 of Equal Access to Justice for All, scattering discussion about the possible creation of resolutions to be  
220 included within the report, concerns about the topic and important areas which must be addressed in  
221 the report.

222 First, the delegation from Ghana discussed the lack of justice in rural areas, suggesting funding  
223 to resolve the issue, and a funding source of metropolitan areas. Additionally, they urged the commit-  
224 tee to develop plans for a Legal Aid Service Program to be included in the report. Then, the delegation



225 from the United States of America recognized the importance of providing its resources to less advan-  
226 tagged nations. Then, the delegation from Czechia stressed the importance of allowing rural areas to  
227 remain decriminalized.

228 Brazil and Ghana had a discussion concerning the similarities between the rural areas among  
229 multiple nations, and the fact that this commonly corresponds with a lack of resources. Ghana dis-  
230 cussed with China, Cuba, UK and Paraguay concerning the possibility of a call center that individuals  
231 would be able to call in order to make up for the lack of physical locations and resources that individ-  
232 uals would need to obtain legal aid.

233 During a consultative session, China expressed concerns regarding funding and the amount  
234 of legal experts available to staff call centers, Brazil seconded this, adding that people of rural areas  
235 may not have access to cell towers/ phones. Ghana explained that, yes this is an issue, however, it is  
236 better to take steps to expand access in some of these rural areas, rather than not have this and limit  
237 access. Ghana also noted that a recommendation for an increase in funding and an expansion of legal  
238 education programs in order to increase the amount of legal experts available was noted previously.

239 The delegation of UK also made a note that we agree, there may be landline access even when  
240 there is not internet and the call center is for this purpose. Then, the delegation from Pakistan stated  
241 that they supported legal call centers, but wondered whether the language must be free, concerned  
242 that rural areas would be forced to invest their monetary funds to participate. They were affirmed by  
243 the delegation from Cuba.

### 244 **3.5 Areas Affected by Corruption and Crime**

245 Finland raised the point that nations should be in favor of improving judicial systems by tackling  
246 crime. Brazil also mentioned the need for crime reduction and prevention and how this body can ap-  
247 proach it in a humane but effective way, which would probably be in the interest of all South American  
248 nations, and hopefully every other nation as well. Libya shifted conversation to the need for the body  
249 to address the problem of corrupt prosecutors and officials in the court systems.

250 On Topic one Recommendation three, China expressed concerns on the vague anti-corruption  
251 and transparency wording as it may violate sovereignty, echoed by Czechia. The UK specified this  
252 wording was included to focus on corruption at all levels. Brazil posed the question of who would be in  
253 charge of this oversight, to which France clarified it is just a suggestion for Member States to advance  
254 their domestic anti-corruption and oversight efforts. Pakistan requested clarification on what anti-  
255 corruption efforts means, to which the UK gave an example of their own anti-corruption institution  
256 which acts as a check on domestic actions and suggests other Member States do the same.

### 257 **3.6 Court Backlogs and the Effects on Expediency**

258 The delegation from the United Kingdom urged Member States to continue to reform judicial  
259 systems which have back laws, in the efforts of promoting health and safety.

260 The Delegation of Bulgaria raises concerns about the lack of infrastructure for artificial intel-  
261 ligence in many countries represented in the committee, underscoring how reliance on AI in judicial  
262 systems could exacerbate inequities rather than promote equal access to justice. Egypt supports this  
263 position, stating that AI is not yet developed enough to address the complex needs of judicial fair-  
264 ness, which could risk deepening disparities. The United States aligns with this perspective, arguing  
265 against the inclusion of AI in discussions, emphasizing that its implementation could divert resources  
266 from more immediate and accessible solutions for achieving equal justice.

267 The Delegation of Bulgaria emphasizes the importance of grassroots initiatives being imple-  
268 mented locally rather than federally, arguing that such programs are more effective in gaining com-  
269 munity support and outreach. They clarify that grassroots initiatives aim to provide legal representa-  
270 tion and advice, which are distinct services, and stress that the language should remain intentionally  
271 broad to address diverse needs and contexts.

272 The Delegation of Belarus raises concerns about grassroots programs often being managed  
273 by the private sector, cautioning against government endorsement of private programs intended to

274 support marginalized groups. This could pose challenges to equity and impartiality in providing access  
275 to justice for these populations.

276 The Delegation of Ghana challenges the notion that a top-down approach would be more ef-  
277 fective, describing it as “the lesser of two evils.” They call for further discussion to develop more robust  
278 strategies that avoid excessive government interference while ensuring grassroots initiatives effec-  
279 tively address the justice needs of marginalized communities.

280 Bulgaria questioned the words “legal advice” and Ghana explained that legal advice is different  
281 from legal representation. “Advice” is broad, but this pertains to any system in any nation, which is  
282 necessary for the purposes of this committee. South Africa highlighted that every nation should be  
283 included under this point because all countries face some sort of racial discrimination. The draft was  
284 amended to reflect South Africa’s concern. The amended version now says “Member States” instead  
285 of “particularly in South America, the Middle East, and Central Asia”.

### 286 **3.7 Sovereignty**

287 Following this discussion, the Delegations of Cuba and the United States address point 2.6 of the  
288 report, concerning sovereignty. The United States acknowledges the importance of state sovereignty  
289 but argues that this section is redundant, as the United Nations primarily provides recommendations  
290 rather than mandates. They suggest that the inclusion of this language may not directly enhance  
291 efforts to ensure equal access to justice for all. Cuba, however, emphasizes the significance of explicitly  
292 mentioning sovereignty, asserting that it provides reassurance to nations such as China, Cuba and  
293 others that their autonomy will be respected. They argue that explicitly recognizing sovereignty could  
294 encourage broader participation and collaboration in initiatives aimed at promoting equal access to  
295 justice, especially in contexts where sovereignty concerns might otherwise impede implementation.

296 Belarus, in turn, highlighted the importance of following their national guidelines, expressing  
297 their disapproval of interfering with other nation’s sovereignty using sanctions or otherwise. They em-  
298 phasized the need to be aware of the implications of intervention measures. Finland, in turn, high-  
299 lighted that ensuring equal justice is primarily a domestic issue. Cuba reiterated earlier remarks re-  
300 garding sovereignty and how reports must protect nations’ rights to practice law in their own rightful  
301 way, remaining mindful of their people’s rights. China further emphasized countries’ rights to base their  
302 court systems to their racial and religious necessities. Pakistan reiterated that sovereignty is impor-  
303 tant to every nation. Pakistan mentioned a point made earlier by Belarus on sanctions, saying that this  
304 body is not enforcing anything on anyone and that individual nations’ rights should be preserved in  
305 that sense. Italy further highlighted the importance of sovereignty.

306 Czechia stated that it is not productive to talk about AI because not all countries are as devel-  
307 oped as other nations. The delegation spoke to the need to focus on the framework to get to other  
308 topics later. China’s response to this comment was that the use of AI would not put people in jail, but  
309 that it would cut costs and make procedures more efficient through saving money on employment  
310 and time on process paperwork and scheduling. The conversation in this session evolved into a ques-  
311 tion and answer focused on the issue of AI in the court system. Paraguay posed the following question  
312 to China: how is AI relevant to the purview of this committee? To which China responded by saying that  
313 AI is relevant because it is one of the most efficient solutions we would propose. The Chinese delegation  
314 also reflected on the economic concerns raised by other delegations saying that labor is expensive, so  
315 AI would be a cheaper alternative and that they are willing to continue the conversation on funding.  
316 Finland further clarified points made by the delegation of China regarding AI, saying that the proposal  
317 is to develop and sell off AI technologies. Finland expressed their disapproval of such practices since  
318 most of the world already relied on technologies that assists court systems to become more efficient.

### 319 **3.8 Artificial Intelligence**

320 China raised the importance of flexible policies that look favorably upon the use of AI to miti-  
321 gate the inequality and inefficiency in the court systems. The Chinese delegation based their remarks  
322 on the fact that the status quo relies on the unsustainable employment of educated people for time  
323 consuming inefficient work that could be replaced by automated systems.

324 The United States of America also highlighted challenges with the Chinese proposal of introduc-  
325 ing AI into legal systems, namely the implications of AI when it comes to accountability, transparency,  
326 and accuracy. Bulgaria talked to China's earlier point and stressed the fact that not all countries can  
327 bring into AI because not every country has the necessary funding for that.

328 The Delegation from the People's Republic of China proposes a resolution advocating for the  
329 use of AI to alleviate the burden on judicial systems in nations facing significant court backlogs. They  
330 argue that automating routine legal processes and reducing human error through AI can streamline  
331 judicial operations, making legal proceedings more efficient and accessible. China asserts that AI's  
332 potential to eliminate human bias and errors could enhance fairness and promote equal access to  
333 justice for all, particularly in overburdened systems.

334 The Delegations from the United States, the United Kingdom, and Austria engage in discussions  
335 regarding the development and implications of AI within judicial systems. The Delegation from the  
336 People's Republic of China consults with the United States to address concerns raised about AI, includ-  
337 ing infrastructure challenges and the risks associated with impenetrable AI software. The United States  
338 emphasizes that these limitations could create disparities among nations, particularly those lacking  
339 the resources or infrastructure to implement it, thereby hindering progress toward equal access to  
340 justice globally.

341 **4 Adoption of the Report**

342 At its meeting on 21 November 2023, the draft report of the Commission on Crime Prevention  
343 and Criminal Justice was made available for consideration. Commission on Crime Prevention and  
344 Criminal Justice considered the report and with no amendments, adopted the report by consensus.

Passed by consensus, with 0 abstentions