

Methodology

The analysis began at a prima facie level by comparing the titles of the resolutions adopted by each body. Resolutions adopted under the following items of the Third Committee's agenda were considered to be human rights related:

- Advancement of women – Item 28
- Report of the Human Rights Council – Item 67
- Promotion and protection of the rights of children – Item 68
- Rights of indigenous peoples – Item 69
- Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance – Item 70
- Right of peoples to self-determination – Item 71
- Promotion and protection of human rights – Item 72

The Third Committee adopted a total of 50 resolutions in the period under analysis, namely 2020. Of these, a total of 37 resolutions were adopted under the agenda items listed above, with the remaining 13 dealing with other areas of the Committee's mandate. The titles of these resolutions were then compared with the titles of the 97 resolutions adopted by the Council during the same period, in order to gauge surface similarities. The analysis found that 19 Third Committee human rights resolutions (51% of the total Third Committee human rights resolutions) were found to have at least one prima facie Council equivalent.

An analysis of the degree of overlap in the content of these resolutions was then conducted. The analysis considered substantive operative paragraphs with practical effect only, i.e. those beginning with/containing any of the following terms: Urges, Calls for, Calls upon, Requests, Demands, Decides, Creates, Renews, Adopts or Extends, etc.

This analysis allowed them to be divided into five categories:

1. Functionally identical: all substantive operative paragraphs in the two resolutions were identical or synonymous;
2. Elaboration: one resolution contained all of the same substantive operative paragraphs as the other, either verbatim or synonymously, plus some further substantive operative paragraphs not appearing in the other;
3. Significant overlap: of the total number of substantive operative paragraphs between the two resolutions, more than 60% had verbatim or synonymous equivalents in the 'sister' document;
4. Some overlap: of the total number of substantive operative paragraphs between the two resolutions, less than 60% but more than 10% had a verbatim or synonymous equivalent in the opposing document;
5. No overlap: of the total number of substantive operative paragraphs between the two resolutions, less than 10% had a verbatim or synonymous equivalent in the opposing document.

The results of this analysis have been outlined in full above.