

Vote on resolution on negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin during 58th UN Human Rights Council

Map of the Month

May 2025

- During the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council, a resolution on the negative impact of funds of illicit origin which was tabled by Ghana on behalf of the African Group was adopted with 29 states voting in favour, 15 against and 3 abstaining. Japan had called for a vote. It was the 14th time that the African Group put the topic on the agenda of the Council.
- The resolution recalls an UNCTAD report that stated that an estimated \$88.6 billion, equivalent to 3.7% of Africa's GDP, leaves the continent as illicit capital flight annually. The resolution requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to organise an expert meeting on strengthening international cooperation and shared responsibilities; requests the Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR) to organise a regional expert meeting in Africa and to prepare a substantive report on the matter.
- Concerns by states who voted against contained the potential duplication of efforts of other entities, such as the UN General Assembly or the Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) with its Working Group on Asset Recovery. A weak operational link to the promotion of human rights or to the root causes of corruption was mentioned.
- The topic is of increasing importance in the context of discussions on financing for development in light of shrinking budgets for official development aid (ODA).

