



## HRC49 – Item 10 – General Debate

31 March 2022

### Joint statement on behalf of 54 countries

Thank you, Mr President,

I am pleased to deliver the following statement on behalf of 54 countries from all regions.<sup>1</sup>

The provision and facilitation of 'technical assistance and capacity-building'<sup>2</sup> is a crucial part of the mandate of this body.

We believe there is an urgent need to give thought to how the Council and the wider UN can better deliver the mobilisation and on the ground implementation of such support.

We believe that such a process of reflection should pursue seven interconnected objectives.

First, the body's work under item 10 should serve to **unite all actors behind the common purpose: namely to work together, through cooperation and dialogue, to help all States implement their human rights obligations and commitments, and thus deliver on 'Our Common Agenda' and the 'Call to Action' on human rights.**

Second, we propose **to bring the real-world challenges and achievements of States and other actors to the Council, the good practices and lessons learnt, as well as the faces and stories of rights-holders.**

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<sup>1</sup> At time of registration to Extranet, there were 54 initial cosponsors: Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea (the Republic of), Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay; Additional support received from Fiji and the Marshall Islands.

<sup>2</sup> GA resolution 60/251, paragraph 5a, 15 March 2006

Third, **the Council must work and deliver for all**, taking into account the full diversity of rights-holders and of the UN's membership.

Fourth, as recognised in GA resolution 60/251, the delivery of 'technical assistance and capacity-building [should be provided] in consultation with and with the consent of Member States concerned.' This means **creating a space where all countries feel free to speak of their own national human rights experiences** and request assistance. This will in turn encourage a spirit of introspection, national ownership, and cooperation.

Fifth, our work under agenda item 10 should serve the **triple goals** of promoting, protecting, and fulfilling **human rights for all**, supporting progress towards the **SDGs** while leaving no one behind and achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and helping build national resilience for long-term or 'upstream' **prevention**.

Sixth, we should encourage the **mainstreaming** of human rights throughout the UN system. This should include hearing from UN Country Teams on their achievements and challenges in working with States to support the implementation of recommendations generated by the human rights mechanisms, as appropriate.

And lastly, while continuing to speak out against human rights violations and abuses and giving a voice to the voiceless, the Council should **also recognise and celebrate success and progress** – whether by States, UN Country Teams, businesses, civil society, or human rights defenders.

Mr President, over the coming sessions, we will work together with you and all other interested stakeholders to take forward this common agenda. We call on all States to join us on this journey.

Thank you, Mr President.