

Human Rights Council and have contributed to the strengthening of the special procedures system. The standing invitation is also issued by us in recognition of the important role that the system of special procedures has played and will further play for the fulfillment of the mandate of the Human Rights Council.

Whilst we are aware that the commitment to receive special procedures is voluntary, we encourage all countries that have not done so, to extend a standing invitation to the special procedures, and once this commitment is made to honour it.

We would also like to reiterate that issuing standing invitations should result in genuine cooperation with the special procedures and must go hand in hand with states respecting the working methods of the special procedures with a view to allow them to discharge their duties consistently, independently and effectively.

We note with satisfaction, that since the beginning of this initiative standing invitations have been issued in more than hundred instances, thus further strengthening cross-regional nature of this initiative.

We are also pleased to note the number of recommendations made during the UPR to issue a standing invitation, and we invite all States to accept this call for cooperation. We also encourage States to continue to raise the issue of special procedures visits in the subsequent UPR working groups.

Mr President,

We encourage candidates to the Council to make concrete commitments to invite and cooperate with the special procedures as part of their campaigns. We also call upon the current members of the Council that have not yet extended a standing invitation to demonstrate their support for the Council and its mechanisms by doing so.

Finally, we invite all states to continue to cooperate with and assist the special procedures mandate holders and to promote an open dialogue in the performance of their tasks.

Thank you Mr President.

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Cross Regional Statement

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia is delivering this Cross Regional Statement on behalf of (names or no. of states).

We would like to begin by reemphasizing the importance and pivotal role of the Human Rights Council as a multilateral human rights body in reviewing human rights situations in all UN Member States. We stand committed to the UPR process as unique intergovernmental human rights mechanism focused on monitoring and improving the human rights situation on the ground through a cooperative interactive dialogue.

Mr. President,

At this juncture, we are pleased that the UPR principles of universality, openness and inclusiveness have been continuously upheld and we note with appreciation that 47 countries have already submitted mid-term reports on their implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations, voluntary practice among the member and observer states that is helpful in tracking their progress. At the same time, we encourage and invite other states to consider submitting mid-term reports during the Second cycle.

We welcome the initiative to increase the role of the Parliaments in the UPR Process. We do share the opinion that the Parliaments can further contribute to the implementation of the accepted recommendations at the national level.

We also note with appreciation that some states on voluntary basis have organized an interactive dialogue with the CSO, immediately after the interactive dialogue at the session of the WG on UPR. We invite the member states to the HR Council to eventually consider this practice for the future cycles.

Furthermore, we wish to thank the states which have already contributed to the Voluntary Participation Fund. In our view, this provides direct support to the process, which is based on the universality of coverage and equal treatment of all countries.

Mr. President,

Despite the progress achieved with the UPR over the past several years, we note that the situation with human rights in certain countries is deteriorating and in some others is stagnating in implementation of the supported UPR recommendations. We welcome the efforts of the OHCHR to find or prepare a set of tools to share good practices and examples that will assist the member states as they seek to address the recommendations from the UPR. In our view, that will open space for a new dynamism in the third cycle of the UPR process and in the implementation of the accepted recommendations. For the cases where the Council notes further stagnation in the implementation of the accepted recommendations, the Council could explore the existing documents adopted by the HR Council, in determining whether and how to react.

We call upon states to make efforts to uphold, strengthen and support the mission of the UPR mechanism. Eventual action as mentioned in this statement will also add to the HRC's credibility and its performance as a key feature of the UN HR system. We trust that this future practice of the HRC is in full conformity with the UNGA Res 60/251, and all relevant resolutions of the HRC.

Thank you, Mr. President

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