



First round of consultations for the long-term efficiency process
of the Human Rights Council

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Statement by
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Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The whole point of the reform in 2006 introducing the Human Rights Council, and the subsequent review exercises in 2010 and 2011, was to increase the value-added of the Human Rights Council in the debate on human rights and to provide a cooperative atmosphere that would be conducive to their advancement.

What we have observed is that, over recent years, these two objectives are being jeopardized:

- Firstly, we are again giving precedence to naming and shaming over the development of cooperative action to enhance human rights. An idea that was upheld by several countries, such as the United States, during the review process was to backstop this cooperative approach by creating a fund provided with sizeable resources. This idea has not materialized;
- Secondly, the debate over value added by the Human Rights Council is now being replaced by a debate on how to reduce value added by limiting speaking time of stakeholders in the Human Rights Council. Reducing speaking time reduces the ability of involved stakeholders to contribute to the realization of the main objectives of the Human Rights Council.

The solution lies in more substantial review of the Council's work agenda. In this respect, focus is only on political issues such as item 7 when the real problem lies elsewhere: in particular on following up on Resolution 60/251, paragraph 6, which calls upon, *inter alia*, the Council to review the mandate of Special Procedures. It says: "*where necessary, improve and rationalize all mandates [...] in order to maintain a system of special procedures [...].*"

This directive of the General Assembly has never been implemented. If we could consolidate mandates, whose numbers are constantly increasing with mandate holders likely to hit the 100 figure, by enhancing coherence and reducing overlap, we could save time while not compromising the Human Rights Council's value added work.

I thank you for your attention.