



## 43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

### Item 8: Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action - General Debate

16 June 2020

#### States that took the floor during the General Debate:

Human Rights Council members: Pakistan (*on behalf of the OIC*), Burkina Faso (*on behalf of the African Group*), Austria (*on behalf of Lichtenstein, Slovenia, Switzerland, Austria*), Croatia (*on behalf of the EU*), Azerbaijan (*on behalf of the NAM*), Ethiopia (*on behalf of the members of the Rule of Law group*), State of Palestine (*on behalf of the group of Arab States*), Pakistan, India, Bahrain, Libya, Venezuela, Indonesia, Nepal, Sudan, Armenia.

Observer states: Marshall Islands, Iraq, Cuba, Tunisia, Russian Federation, Iran, Syrian Arab Republic, Algeria, Belarus, South Africa, United Kingdom, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cambodia (*by video*), Burundi, Myanmar, China.

Some of the **recurrent topics** of the discussion were: **Covid19** and its impacts on human rights enjoyment (OIC, African Group, Austria, *on behalf of a group of states*), as well as **Covid19 frontlines** (Indonesia), the need to reflect the plurality of **civil society** voices (EU, Austria, *on behalf of the group of states*), **right to development** (Venezuela, Iran, Algeria). A number of states spoke about the principle of **non-politization** and **non-interference** in internal affairs (Libya, China, Venezuela, Russian Federation, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Sudan, Belarus, Cuba, Syria, Cambodia, Burundi). Ethiopia (*on behalf of the Rule of law group*), Croatia (*on behalf of the EU*) and United Kingdom brought up the importance of **strong rule of law**.

Other states mentioned the importance of supporting the **developing countries and LDCs** (OIC), global surge of **islamophobia** (OIC), **nationalism and extremism** (African Group), the need for **adequate funding** of the UN human rights pillar (Austria, *on behalf of a group of states*), **climate change** (Austria, *on behalf of the group of states*, African Group), rights of **minorities** (Austria, *on behalf of the group of states*), **internally displaced persons** (Azerbaijan, *on behalf of NAM*), **ceasefire** (Armenia), **technical development** (Tunisia), **universal coercive measures** (Syria), **country-based resolutions** (Belarus), strengthening **multilateralism** (South Africa), and **sustainable development** (South Africa, State of Palestine).

#### Civil society organizations that took the floor during the General Debate

Action Canada for Population and Development (*on behalf of 12 NGOs*), Federation for Women and Family Planning, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (*joint statement*), World Jewish Congress, Asociacion HazteOir.org, Iraqi Development Organization, Victorious Youths Movement, Association pour les Victimes Du Monde (*joint statement*), African Green Foundation International, International Human Rights Association of American Minorities, Ingenieurs du Monde, United Nations Watch, Alsalam Foundation, African Heritage Foundation Nigeria, Association Solidarité Internationale pour l'Afrique, World Muslim Congress, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc, International Muslim Women's Union, ABC Tamil Oli, Tamil Uzhagam, Tourner La Page, Action pour la protection des droits de l'homme en Mauritanie, Association pour la Défense des Droits de la Femme Mauritanienne, Association Mauritanienne pour la promotion du droit, Association pour le Développement Humain en Mauritanie, Association pour l'Éducation et la Santé de la Femme et de l'Enfant, Personhood Education, Guinee Humanitaire, European Centre for Law and Justice, CIVICUS (*joint statement*).

**Civil society representatives spoke, among others, on following topics:** Participation of civil society in the Human Rights Council (especially the voices from the Global South), women trafficking, hate speech, rights women and LGBTIQ population in Poland, freedom of expression in Spain, rights of people in Yemen, self-determination of Tamil people in Sri Lanka, self-determination of people in Kashmir, self-determination of people in Bahrain, rights of Indian minorities.

India, Mauritania and Pakistan exercised their **Right of Reply**.