



## **Reports on the 45<sup>th</sup> session of the UN Human Rights Council**

**General debate on agenda Item 6 (30 September 2020)**

**Universal Periodic Review**

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### Interventions made on behalf of Groups of States

*Germany (on behalf of the European Union), Pakistan (on behalf of OIC), Kuwait (on behalf of a Group of Arab States), Azerbaijan (on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement).*

<p><b>Germany</b> on behalf of the <b>European Union</b><sup>1</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UPR can only contribute to the improvement of the human rights situations, if all UN Member States are engaged and provide proper follow-up to the recommendations received.</li> <li>- Treaty bodies and other UN human rights mechanisms are crucial in providing information to formulate UPR recommendations.</li> <li>- Call on all states to enable and encourage the participation of civil society in all stages of the UPR process, including the UPR pre-sessions – without fear of harassment, intimidation, or reprisals.</li> <li>- Also call on the OHCHR to facilitate the participation of not only international Geneva-based NGOs but also smaller national NGOs, which might be more familiar with the reality on the ground.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pakistan</b> on behalf of <b>Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The UPR has proven to be an effective peer-review mechanism.</li> <li>- Appreciate the role played by civil society and National Human Rights mechanisms.</li> <li>- Any initiatives related to UPR must avoid practices of selectivity and “naming and shaming”.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Kuwait</b> on behalf of <b>Group of Arab States (Arab Group)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stress the importance of cooperation with all partners by implementing the recommendations and conclusions with the aim of implementing of SDGs.</li> <li>- Importance of avoiding selectivity and double standards. Reiterate importance of taking into account the special circumstances of each country under review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Azerbaijan</b> on behalf of <b>Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UPR should be carried as a result-oriented mechanism based on a cooperation and dialogue.</li> <li>- UPR should aim at strengthening the capacities of the Member States upon their request, with their consent and in consultation with them.</li> <li>- UPR should be conducted objectively, on the basis of reliable information.</li> <li>- It should not be used as a tool to interfere in the internal affairs of states, or to question their political, economic, and social systems, their sovereign rights, and national, cultural and religious peculiarities.</li> </ul>

### Interventions made on behalf of Human Rights Council’s Member States

*India, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Bahrain, Nepal, Sudan*

<p>1. <b>India</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The review should focus on all human rights in equal measure, and any undue focus on a particular set of rights may be counterproductive.</li> <li>- Sufficient time should be allocated to the UPR by the Council for meaningful discussions.</li> <li>- It is important to focus technical assistance and capacity building towards the implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations.</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> The Candidate Countries Republic of North Macedonia , Montenegro, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liechtenstein, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.



2. <b>Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council must always take into account the level of development in each country.</li> <li>- The UPR is the correct way for avoiding the politics of domination. Insist on promoting human rights in the world without politicization, selectivity or double standards. Multilateralism is the way forward for human rights.</li> </ul>
3. <b>Bahrain</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UPR mechanism will strongly contribute to improving protection and prevention of human rights, in light of the unprecedented world situation in view of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>- The link should be built between the UPR recommendations and the SDGs.</li> <li>- UPR should continue functioning on the basis of neutrality, objectivity and non-selectivity, far from politicization.</li> </ul>
4. <b>Nepal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- National efforts to implement the recommendations of the last UPR, and to promote and protect human rights.</li> </ul>
5. <b>Sudan</b>	<p><i>Aligns itself with the statements made by the Regional groups to which it belongs.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UPR is a unique opportunity for the countries to receive recommendations in a neutral and objective manner far away from any politicization.</li> <li>- It is an excellent opportunity to share the best practices, and to make targeted and effective recommendations.</li> </ul>

### Interventions made on behalf of Observers

*Iraq, Cuba, China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), United Nations Population Fund (UNPA)*

1. <b>Iraq</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reiterates the importance of respecting regional, national cultural and other features of each country.</li> <li>- The debates must not deviate from its primary focus on the human rights and must not be politicized.</li> </ul>
2. <b>Cuba</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UPR should be maintained as equal treatment for all the states under review, regardless of the OHCHR liquidity crisis.</li> <li>- Continued issue of sending the letters to some States and underscoring some recommendations and ignoring others; OHCHR should stop this counter-productive practice inherited from the previous High Commissioner.</li> <li>- The current context of selectivity and political manipulation that has been imposed on the Council, which is incompatible with the objectives and nature UPR, including the proliferation of selective universal coercive measures.</li> </ul>
3. <b>China</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommendations should be compatible with national circumstances and level of development.</li> <li>- The OHCHR has written to countries under review requesting them, selectively, to take action on certain areas, including on recommendations not accepted by them. OHCHR should correct this misguided practice.</li> <li>- Concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on the UPR Working Group.</li> <li>- UPR should be provided all the necessary resources in order to be able to work normally.</li> </ul>
4. <b>Iran (Islamic Republic of)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Challenges for implementation of UPR recommendations: universal coercive measures, terrorism, interference in the domestic affairs of sovereign countries. The UPR mechanism should address these concerns in its upcoming meetings.</li> </ul>
5. <b>United Nations Population Fund (UNPA)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Systematically engaged with the UPR processes since 2014 in order to promote dialogue and accountability on gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.</li> <li>- During this session, 9 UNFPA country officers have provided statements to welcome the adoption of the respective UPR Outcome reports, and highlight the alignment of a number of recommendations with national commitments the states have made at the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25 in November 2019.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UNFPA has just released a Fact Sheet on accountability for elimination of Female Genital Mutilation with the focus on the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle of the UPR recommendations.</li></ul>
6. Georgia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Participation of civil society in UPR processes is critical.</li><li>- Ready to share their good practices of national efforts of preparation of UPR cycles and implementation of the recommendations.</li></ul>

### Interventions made on behalf of Civil Society Organizations

1. UPR Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The importance of UPR recommendations. They should be formulated to address the pre-existing human rights challenges, and the new one resulting from COVID-19.</li><li>- UPR should be used for transformative change and building back better.</li></ul>
2. Universal Rights Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Encourage the 12 states whose Outcome reports were adopted during the HRC45 to use the implementation of recommendations an opportunity to embark on a democratic and participative process.</li><li>- First Intergovernmental Principles were adopted earlier in 2020, designed to guide states in the effective implementation of their international human rights obligations.</li></ul>
3. Peace Brigades International Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Welcome contributions to the UPR of Kenya and the related recommendations.</li></ul>
4. European Centre for Law and Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Religious rights of the minorities in Turkey.</li></ul>
5. Alsalam Foundation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Bahrain.</li></ul>
6. United Towns Agency for North-South Cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Important of civil society participation, including that of the youth.</li></ul>
7. African Development Association	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
8. Association Thendral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Human rights situation of Tamils in Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
9. ABC Tamil Oli	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
10. Tamil World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
11. African Green Foundation International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Controversy of the Human Rights Council resolution 30/1 on Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
12. International Buddhist Relief Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
13. International Institute for Rights and Development Geneva	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The migrant crisis, refugees and asylum seekers in Turkey.</li></ul>
14. African Heritage Foundation Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
15. International Solidarity for Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>
16. Jeunesse Etudiante Tamoule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Implementation of UPR recommendations by Sri Lanka.</li></ul>

**Minute of Silence:** State of Palestine called for a Minute of Silence in memory of His Royal Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, the Emir of Kuwait who passed on 29 September 2020.

Full recording of the General Debate on Item 6 is available on the [UN WebTV](#).