

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL – 51st SESSION

Interactive dialogue with the Independent Expert on the Promotion of a Democratic and Equitable International Order

19 September 2022

In his statement, **Mr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order**, focused on some of the main challenges and issues in relation to the maintaining and strengthening international peace and security at the global level from the perspective of his mandate, and possible ways to overcome them. He stressed that the current **tragic events in Ukraine and beyond** are a powerful reminder that international peace and security cannot be fully secured without achieving **nuclear disarmament**, revitalizing the international community's commitment to **arms control and disarmament**, and **reducing military expenditure** in favour of **sustainable development**. Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous and inhumane weapons ever designed. Their presence in the military arsenal of some States is typically justified by the policy of so-called nuclear deterrence to keep peace. They also constitute an inherent threat to the existence of humanity. He stated that in order to address the challenges facing international peace and security, including the current **COVID-19 pandemic and climate change**, it is vital that people should be more included and allowed to participate and contribute better to the activities of the UN mechanisms. This also means undertaking long-overdue reform of some key UN bodies, the Security Council and the General Assembly specifically. To conclude, considering the International Day of Peace (21 September), Mr. Sewanyana stressed that multilateralism and collective responsibility through dialogue, diplomacy, negotiation, and inclusiveness are the sole path for solving conflicts and maintaining international peace and security, and for overcoming all the global challenges facing humankind.

Interactive dialogue

24 country delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue. The majority of the countries, sharing national activities, initiatives and efforts, supported most of the proposals recommended by the Independent Expert. Countries including **Panama, Maldives, Venezuela** and **India** highlighted multilateralism and multilateral frameworks in addressing international peace and security challenges and said that global problems such as climate change, terrorism and pandemics require global solutions. **Bangladesh** said that only democratic and equitable international order can ensure protection and promotion of human rights worldwide, along with advanced recommendations such as upholding all the resolutions on culture of peace, continuing sustained financing for peace building, revitalizing the General Assembly and reforming of the Security Council. **Russian Federation** rejected a number of the conclusions and assessments contained in the report and affirmed that narratives of the conflict in Ukraine were distorted. It reminded that the reform of the Security Council, the International Court of Justice and other organs of the UN system is beyond the IE's competence and mandate.

NGOs were concerned that unilateralism and UCMs violate the international law, undermine international order and present a serious challenge to global peace, harming peaceful trade relationships among States. They stated that the UN is relevant in promoting a democratic and equitable international order, as well as in maintaining international peace and security. The UN Secretariat and other UN actors can be more active and proactive in assisting States in resolving their disputes peacefully.

Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue (24 country delegations):

Bangladesh, Botswana, Cuba, India, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Namibia, Oman, Panama, Russian Federation, Sovereign Order of Malta, Venezuela, China, Timor-Leste, Pakistan, Bolivia, Iran, Armenia, OIC, Indonesia, Cambodia, Israel, Azerbaijan.

NHRIs and NGOs that took the floor (9):

Associazione Comunita Papa Giovanni XXIII, China Foundation for Human Rights Development, China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), International-Lawyers.Org, Jameh Ehyagaran Teb Sonnatu Va Salamat Iranian, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights association, Medical Support Association for Underprivileged Iranian Patients, Shaanxi Patriotic Volunteer Association, Youth Parliament for SDG.

International organizations (1): UN Women

To watch full meeting refer to UN Web TV: [Part 1](#), [Part 2](#).