

**36th Session of the Human Rights Council**

**Joint Statement delivered by**

**Maximiliano Ruiz**

**Representative of Belize from Capital**

**On behalf of the 8 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States(SIDS) Beneficiary Delegates and Fellows of the Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council during the 36th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council**

**General Debate, Item 10 - Technical Cooperation**

**Geneva, 27 September 2017**

Mr. President,

I am honoured to deliver this statement on behalf of the following Least Developing Countries/Small Island Developing States (LDC's/SIDS) beneficiary countries: Angola, Belize, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania and Samoa. Four countries do not have a Permanent Mission in Geneva: Belize, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands and Samoa.

Our countries are committed to the Principles enshrined in the Human Rights Charter which seeks to ensure the universal respect of the human rights of peoples. However, as LDC's/SIDS countries, it is a challenge for us to participate in the Council sessions in Geneva, annually. Hence, our delegations appreciate and put great emphasis on Technical Cooperation afforded to our countries to participate in these sessions which provide an opportunity for us to dialogue, engage and apprise ourselves on new developments in Human Rights issues and to understand the work and good practices of other countries through the guidance of the Council. Only through the universal participation of all states can we foresee in achieving a better world for all.

On behalf of the aforementioned countries, I express our appreciation to the support given to the LDCS/SIDS Trust Fund and would like to thank the donor countries for their generosity to the Fund which made it possible for our participation. We also thank the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its continued support to the Technical Cooperation Programme rendered to our countries and we look forward in continuing working together.

Thank you, Mr. President.

**Operationalization of the Council’s ‘prevention’ mandate:  
the effective implementation of paragraph 5f of GA res. 60/251**

**Draft joint statement**

Mr President,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of XX States.

This Council has a clear mandate, given by the General Assembly through paragraph 5f of GA resolution 60/251, to‘contribute, through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations’ and to‘respond promptly to human rights emergencies.’ The Council itself has reaffirmed this role across several consensus resolutions. However, the Council is yet to put in place an explicit and coherent policy framework to turn these important words into reality.

We are pleased today to launch a renewed discussion focussed on operationalizing the Council’s prevention mandate under paragraph 5f, and doing so in an inclusive and cooperative manner.

Mr President,

We believe that paragraph 5f comprisestwo parts.

First, there is the prevention of violations at ‘root-cause’ level.States must be committed to engage in preventing human rights violations from happening by implementing their obligations and commitments,and building domestic human rights resilience, including through international dialogue and cooperation for the delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building by the entire UN system.This will in turn help States strengthen the rule of law and good governance,promote and protect freedom of expression and of assembly, gender equality,secure civil society space, promote human rights education and training, ending all forms of discrimination and build domestic human rights protection institutions including independent judiciaries and NHRIs.It also means taking concrete steps to enable and strengthen the Council’s delivery of technical assistance and capacity-building support under item 10 of its agenda, in consultation with and with the consent of member States concerned.

Second, the Council is mandated to ‘respond promptly to human rights emergencies.’ The Secretary-General has urged us to ‘translate early warning into early action’. This meansthat the High Commissioner, within his mandate,should have the tools and resources necessary to gather, process and synthesise ‘early warning’ information about patterns of violations in a timely and effective manner and to brief the Council, either during or outside of its regular sessions.TheCouncil, in accordance with its mandate,should then appraise that information in an objective and non-selective manner, and decide whether the situation merits and/or may benefit from early preventive action. As part of that process, civil society space at the Council must be fully safeguarded.

In order to do so, it is clear that some of the Council’s existing mechanisms can be better used to play a stronger prevention role. Notwithstanding,if this Council is to truly and effectively fulfil its mandate under paragraph 5f, it must develop a new mind-set, new ways of doing things, and potentially new tools.

Finally, none of this can or should happen in isolation. Prevention and early action are relevant for the whole UN system and better coherence throughout the three pillars is essential for the UN’s impact and its support to Member States.

Thank you Mr President.