

DRAFT – AFRICAN GROUP STATEMENT

Second intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on HR and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

3 December 2019 – R XX

I thank you M. Chair,

On behalf of the African Group, we welcome the holding of this second intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

1. The African Group would like to recall that the fifth session of the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development held in Marrakech this year reaffirmed the Continent's commitment to continue its path towards sustainable development, through a holistic approach and inclusiveness, as all human rights are closely related and mutually reinforcing.

2. In line with other international events that took place in 2019 on the subject, we consider that this second intersessional meeting of the HRC is an important step forward that reminds us that time is running out for the achievement the SDG, particularly in Africa. This should encourage all States to redouble their efforts to accelerate the implementation of this important Agenda.

3. The alignment of national development plans with international targets, as well as the need to fully integrate the objectives of the Agenda at the national level into policies, plans, budgets, investment approaches, and private sector participation and development, seems to be fundamental to overcome the different challenges our regions are still facing.

4. In this spirit, it is essential that this meeting results in HRC contributions to strengthen the political commitment of States at the national and international levels for the full realization of human rights, in particular the Right to Development. In the same vein, it creates a golden opportunity for members to discuss the best ways and practices to strengthened global partnerships in the collective quest to ensure a significant reduction of inequalities and greater resilience of populations towards the sustainability of our societies.

I thank you M. Chair.