

Statement on local government and human rights

I would like to thank H.E the ambassador of the republic of Korea, Mr. Seconghoon Lee from Human Rights Foundation, and Ms Andreas Egbuna-Joos from the Swiss Center for Expertise in Human Rights/Institute of Federalism for their presentation of this new mandate. Their presentation was clear and informative of the subject beforehand. In fact, the new mandate is not new to us. Actually, this mandate was discussed before in the Committee and went to the Council as a proposal. The Council during its twenty fourth session, considered and approved this mandate as resolution 24/2. While the resolution asked the Committee to seek the views of many stakeholders, it also asked us to take into account, as appropriate, the recommendations made by the human rights treaty bodies, at the universal periodic review and by the special procedures, as well as the work done on the issue by relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes within their respective mandates.

One would wonder why local government and human rights is so important? I could say that by integrating international human rights principles into local policies, it could lead to effective, sustainable, and responsive policies. Human rights when implemented locally could foster innovation and proactive policymaking, as well as improving local governance.

It is important that human rights policies be developed and implemented in partnership with local communities to ensure they are sustainable and effective in addressing local needs. Human rights policies of local governments can improve local governance and enhance policy delivery. Therefore, it is important to strengthen the policies to promote social justice for all citizens and residents. The policies of local governments start at the local level, where individuals work to promote human rights for all. It is important to have resources and support which is critical to the ability of state and local governments' capacity to promote and protect human rights. Fulfilling the promise of human rights requires long-term planning,

resources, and coordination at all levels of government. At the same time, state and local officials and agencies have a pivotal role to play in these efforts. Hence, we have to understand how all actors in local government work for the promotion and protection of human rights as well as the impediments that face the protection and promotion of these rights.