

Enhancement of the international cooperation in the field of human rights

Mr. Chairman,

Dear colleagues,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Seetulsingh the chair of the working group as well as Mr. Okafor, the rapporteur of the drafting group for their statements on the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights. I wish also to thank them and members of the drafting group for having the progress report before hand. I believe that despite the input by states and other actors as well as the discussions on the subject by the members of the drafting group since August which were reflected in the progress report more work should be done. I believe that we should utilize this session so that at the end we will have an important piece of work.

The main goal for enhancement of international co-operation in the field of human rights is to assist all actors in the international arena to uphold human right values. Such co-operation should not be a pressure tool to arrive at political ends. Nowadays, we witness a mixture of pressures and condemnations that does not lead us anywhere. Many countries were under consideration in the Human Rights Council but no result was achieved on the ground. To the contrary, from reading special procedure bodies reports it is clear to us that the situation is not improving.

I believe that efforts, should be encouraged and cooperation with the concerned states should be pursued. Moreover, cooperation between international actors and states should be pursued since expertise is with these actors. Thus the international co-operation will serve as a positive factor in promoting human rights.

It is interesting to note that with increased co-operation we could achieve more than confrontation. I note here that, all states in the international arena should not be excluded from such co-operation. I believe that even states that boycott human rights machinery

should be brought in by approaching them in the system and not leave them excluded since we are looking for real co-operation and promotion of human rights.

Despite the current role of the UN in international cooperation, I believe that the UN could serve more in promoting strong partnerships with states and international actors in the field of human rights. Its efforts should be reflected on providing more technical cooperation and advisory services, fostering dialogue and cooperation between States as well as inter-state institutions, civil society, and other actors in the international arena. It is also important to seek strengthening cooperation with other international partners on human rights issues. Such a role will give it more leverage in dealing with human rights issues worldwide.

At this session, we are meeting in a better environment that reflects universality of the international cooperation in the field of human rights. We should applaud the courageous decision of an important state to rejoin the Human Rights Council by submitting its UPR report as a first step. We are hopeful that during the 25th session in March, the same state will have its place as an observer in the Human Rights Council. Meanwhile, it is important also not to forget other international foras such as ICC where we hope that a state that announced its intention to leave the ICC remain a member in the organization. The international community should approach that state to convince it remain in the ICC.

Our aim is to have a universal cooperation in the field of human rights, with no exceptions even if we have disagreements, so that the human rights system be strengthened.

Thank you.