

*Mission Permanente de la France
auprès des Nations Unies
et des Organisations Internationales
à Genève*

L'Ambassadeur
EP/cd n° 107

Genève, le 1er février 2010

Madame la Haut Commissaire,

J'ai le plaisir de vous transmettre le compte-rendu de la 2^{ème} réunion informelle du groupe de réflexion sur le renforcement du Conseil des Droits de l'Homme qui s'est tenue à Paris les 25 et 26 janvier 2010.

Ce compte-rendu est établi sous la responsabilité des deux co-présidents du groupe, le Mexique et la France.

Je vous prie de recevoir, Madame la Haut Commissaire, mes hommages.



Jean Baptiste Mattéi

Madame Navanethem PILLAY
Haut Commissaire des Nations Unies
aux droits de l'homme
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVE 10

OHCHR REGISTRY

- 2 FEB 2010

Recipients : HRC
..... HC
.....
.....

**Reflection group on the strengthening of
the Human Rights Council
Second meeting
25-26th January, Paris**

**Preliminary report
Under the responsibility of the co-chairs**

The Second meeting of the Reflection group on the strengthening of the Human Rights Council took place in Paris on the 25th and 26th of January, 2010. This meeting gathered 21 country delegations from all regions, 5 NGOs, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On the basis of the discussions that were held during the session in Mexico, in October 2009, this informal exercise allowed for an exchange of views on the ways to increase the efficiency of the HRC, in the view of the upcoming 2011 reviews. Delegations were invited to go further into the subjects and to make concrete proposals aiming at increasing the efficiency of the HRC.

This document aims at giving a comprehensive view of the different opinions expressed during the debates.

I/ Evaluation of the protection of human rights by States: Review of the existing mechanisms

A/ The Universal Periodic Review

- The UPR was identified as a valuable mechanism, due to:
 - The *universal* character of the process in reviewing all UN member states under the same criteria;
 - The “momentum” it creates at the national level regarding human rights in each country;
 - The opportunities it provides to NGOs in terms of engagement and access to the UN human rights system.
 - It encourages the exchange of best practices.
- Emphasis was made on the importance of ensuring adequate preparation, follow-up and implementation of UPR recommendations, as a means for the UPR to translate into real impact in the field. In this sense, it was suggested to identify key areas where the UPR has had impact and those human rights issues which would require greater attention during the second cycle as well as possible technical cooperation by the OHCHR at all stages of the UPR.

The following suggestions were made:

- Suggestions regarding the preparation phase:
 - To enhance the technical cooperation available to States in preparing their review.
 - To ensure the prompt and adequate availability of the UPR documentation to States, NGOs and the public in general in order to promote a better analysis prior to the review;
 - To further reflect on a consolidated compilation of information submitted by States, NGOs and the UN human rights mechanisms.