

State participation in the UPR Working Group

SESSION 5: 4 – 15 May 2009

Executive Summary: In terms of statements made, Session 5 marked the return to the “norm” after a particularly dense session 4 (with 600 statements made for session 1 to 3, compared to 800 for session 4). However, the number of States participating continued to diversify resulting in 121 different States taking the floor, more akin to session 4 than 1-3. This points out the increasing involvement of States in the UPR process. The list of speakers was only cut for Viet Nam.

Human Rights Council members accounted for more than half of the statements made during the session. Only Madagascar, Uruguay and Zambia did not take the floor.

With regards to regional groups, the WEOG was again the most active, (as it was during session 1 to 3) having increased both the number of participating States and statements made. The GRULAC became the least active bloc in both categories, replacing the EEG.

- 121 States took the floor during the fifth session of the Universal Periodic Review¹.
- 671 statements in total were made by those 121 States².
- The average number of statements made those 121 States was 5.6.

Participation by Human Rights Council Membership

| | Participating States | % | Participation within State categories | Statements | % | Statements per participating States |
|--|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| HRC Member States (47³) | 44 | 36.4 ⁴ | 93.6% ⁵ | 362 | 54 ⁶ | 8.2 |
| HRC Observer States (147⁷) | 77 | 63.6 | 52.4% | 309 | 46 | 4 |
| Total | 121 | 100 | N/A | 671 | 100 | 5.5 |

¹ Including United Nations (UN) observers Holy See and Palestine.

² Only statements delivered orally during the reviews are taken into account in this study.

³ Total number of Human Rights Council (HRC) member States.

⁴ 44/121 = 36.4%. 36.4% of the States participating in the fifth session were HRC member States.

⁵ 44/47 = 93.6%. 93.6% of the HRC member States took the floor during the fifth session.

⁶ 362/671 = 54%. 54% of the statements made during the fifth session were from HRC member States.

⁷ 192 UN members + 2 UN observers = 194 – 47 HRC member States = 147

Comments:

- **Madagascar, Uruguay and Zambia** are the only three HRC members which did not take the floor during the fifth session.
- Despite representing only 36.4% of the participating States, the HRC member States contributed to 54% of the statements made, **each speaking twice as much as observers** (average of 8 to 4)

Participation by Regional Groups

| | Participating States | % | Participation within group | Statements | % | Statements per participating State |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Af. G (53) | 27 | 22.3 ⁸ | 50.9% ⁹ | 132 | 19.7 ¹⁰ | 5 |
| As. G (54) | 34 | 28.1 | 63% | 155 | 23.1 | 4.6 |
| EEG (23) | 17 | 14.1 | 73.9% | 90 | 13.4 | 5.3 |
| GRULAC (33) | 16 | 13.2 | 48.5% | 73 | 10.9 | 4.6 |
| WEOG (29) | 25 | 20.7 | 86.2% | 209 | 31.1 | 8.4 |
| UN Observ. (2) | 2 | 1.6 | 100% | 12 | 1.8 | 6 |
| Total | 121 | 100 | N/A | 671 | 100 | 5.5 |

Comments:

- **All regional groups** have reduced their number of statements made compared to session 4, with the exception of the WEOG.
- The WEOG is the only group that has increased **both** the number of **participating States** and **the number of statements made**.
- The WEOG is the most active group **in terms of the number of statements made** (209 in total, giving an average of 8.4 statements made per speakers during the session), whereas the Asian group was the most active in terms of **number of States participating** (34 States)
- The GRULAC has become the **least active group** with both the least number of participating States and statements made contributing to only 10% of the latter.

⁸ 27/121 = 22.3%. 22.3% of the States participating in the fifth session were members of the African Group.

⁹ 27/53 = 50.9%. 50.9% of the members of the African Group took the floor during the fifth session.

¹⁰ 132/671 = 19.7%. 19.7% of the statements made during the fifth session were from members the African Group.

Regional groups sorted by States under review

| | Central African Rep. (Af. G) | Monaco (WEOG) | Belize (GRULAC) | Chad (Af. G) | Congo (Af. G) | Malta (WEOG) | New Zealand (WEOG) | Afghanistan (As. G) |
|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Af. G (53) | 17 | 4 | 1 | 20 | 21 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| As. G (54) | 5 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 21 |
| EEG (23) | 4 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 7 |
| Grulac (33) | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 2 |
| WEOG (29) | 14 | 11 | 7 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 12 | 20 |
| UN Obs. (2) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 43 | 28 | 20 | 49 | 44 | 31 | 36 | 57 |

| | Chile (GRULAC) | Viet Nam (As. G) | Uruguay (GRULAC) | Yemen (As. G) | Vanuatu (As. G) | Macedonia (EEG) | Comoros (Af. G) | Slovakia (EEG) |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Af. G (53) | 7 | 13 | 3 | 13 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| As. G (54) | 11 | 22 | 11 | 24 | 4 | 4 | 10 | 11 |
| EEG (23) | 5 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 12 |
| Grulac (33) | 11 | 6 | 13 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| WEOG (29) | 16 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 11 | 16 | 8 | 15 |
| UN Obs. (2) | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 52 | 61 | 46 | 62 | 24 | 39 | 31 | 48 |

Comments:

- This table shows the **key role** played by regional groups.
- Leaving aside the WEOG's dominant presence during most reviews, **on 14 out of 16 reviews the most active regional group** was the one to which the State under Review belongs.
- For example, for the review of Congo, **half of the statements** were made by members of its regional group.

Details of participation by HRC membership* and regional groups combined

The African Group (27/53)

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|
| Algeria | 16 | <i>Ghana</i> | <i>5</i> |
| <i>Angola</i> | <i>5</i> | Guinea | 2 |
| Benin | 2 | Libya | 2 |
| <i>Burkina Faso</i> | <i>6</i> | Mali | 1 |
| <i>Cameroon</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>Mauritius</i> | <i>2</i> |
| Central African Rep | 2 | Morocco | 14 |
| Chad | 3 | <i>Nigeria</i> | <i>9</i> |
| Congo | 6 | <i>Senegal</i> | <i>5</i> |
| Côte d'Ivoire | 4 | Somalia | 1 |
| DRC | 3 | <i>South Africa</i> | <i>10</i> |
| <i>Djibouti</i> | <i>5</i> | Sudan | 2 |
| <i>Egypt</i> | <i>9</i> | Tunisia | 7 |
| Equatorial Guinea | 3 | Zimbabwe | 2 |
| <i>Gabon</i> | <i>3</i> | | |

The Western European and Others Group (WEOG) (25/29)

| | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Australia | 4 | <i>Italy</i> | <i>13</i> |
| Austria | 10 | <i>Netherlands</i> | <i>16</i> |
| Belgium | 7 | New Zealand | 5 |
| <i>Canada</i> | <i>16</i> | Norway | 8 |
| Denmark | 5 | Portugal | 4 |
| Finland | 6 | San Marino | 1 |
| <i>France</i> | <i>15</i> | Spain | 9 |
| <i>Germany</i> | <i>15</i> | Sweden | 13 |
| Iceland | 1 | <i>Switzerland</i> | <i>7</i> |
| Ireland | 3 | Turkey | 16 |
| Israel | 1 | <i>United Kingdom</i> | <i>16</i> |
| Greece | 2 | United States | 16 |

The Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) (16/33)

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| <i>Argentina</i> | <i>13</i> | Guatemala | 2 |
| <i>Bolivia</i> | <i>2</i> | Jamaica | 1 |
| <i>Brazil</i> | <i>15</i> | <i>Mexico</i> | <i>16</i> |
| <i>Chile</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>Nicaragua</i> | <i>4</i> |
| Colombia | 2 | Paraguay | 2 |
| <i>Cuba</i> | <i>5</i> | Peru | 2 |
| Dominican Republic | 1 | Trinidad and Tobago | 1 |
| Ecuador | 2 | Venezuela | 3 |

The Asian Group (34/54)

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Bahrain</i> | <i>3</i> | Maldives | 5 |
| <i>Bangladesh</i> | <i>12</i> | Myanmar | 1 |
| Bhutan | 1 | Nepal | 4 |
| Brunei | 1 | Oman | 1 |
| Cambodia | 1 | <i>Pakistan</i> | <i>9</i> |
| <i>China</i> | <i>11</i> | <i>Philippines</i> | <i>6</i> |
| DPR Korea | 2 | <i>Qatar</i> | <i>3</i> |
| <i>India</i> | <i>10</i> | <i>Republic of Korea</i> | <i>8</i> |
| <i>Indonesia</i> | <i>3</i> | <i>Saudi Arabia</i> | <i>3</i> |
| Iran | 6 | Singapore | 4 |
| <i>Japan</i> | <i>13</i> | Sri Lanka | 3 |
| <i>Jordan</i> | <i>6</i> | Syria | 5 |
| Kazakhstan | 3 | Thailand | 2 |
| Kuwait | 1 | United Arab Emirates | 4 |
| Lao | 1 | Uzbekistan | 3 |
| Lebanon | 5 | Viet Nam | 3 |
| <i>Malaysia</i> | <i>11</i> | Yemen | 1 |

The Eastern European Group (17/23)

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Albania | 2 | Moldova | 2 |
| <i>Azerbaijan</i> | <i>15</i> | Montenegro | 2 |
| Belarus | 2 | Poland | 3 |
| <i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i> | <i>2</i> | <i>Russian Federation</i> | <i>7</i> |
| Bulgaria | 1 | Serbia | 1 |
| Croatia | 2 | <i>Slovakia</i> | <i>1</i> |
| Czech Republic | 15 | <i>Slovenia</i> | <i>15</i> |
| Hungary | 4 | <i>Ukraine</i> | <i>7</i> |
| Latvia | 9 | | |

*States in bold and italic were members of the HRC during the 5th UPR Working Group Session.