



Thank you Mr. President.

On 10 June 2013, 77 NGOs raised their concerns regarding worrying practices at the Universal Periodic Review. Drifts were detected from the conventional format of the Report of the Working Group, a report which bears great importance as it represents the official record of the review process in Geneva. We are pleased to see that the Presidency seriously considered this issue.

The format of the Report of the Working Group should be the same for all countries in order to guarantee equal treatment. According to Resolution 5/1, the Report is a “summary of the proceedings” and should be drafted in an objective manner. Its content should reflect the discussion held in the room, as stated in Presidential statement from 9 April 2008. Under no circumstances should States have the possibility to remove recommendations from the list, and both accepted and noted recommendations should be included in the report. This is the only way to keep equal treatment among all States.

Mr. President, you shared with the Permanent Missions on 18 September a crucial letter reminding the existing practices and rules for the Working Group report drafting. You notably clarified that all recommendations suggested during the UPR have to be included in the body of the report of the Working Group, and that all recommendations included in this report are part of the outcome. When existing practices and rules are not followed anymore, it is the President's role to remember them to the Council; we warmly thank you for fulfilling your mandate in an exemplary fashion.

Similarly, on Friday 20 September 2013, regarding two recommendations in footnotes, you clarified that recommendations not answered to are to be considered as "noted".

Again, we warmly thank you M. President for the clarifications provided.