



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**
to United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

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27th Session of the HRC

Item 6: General Debate

Statement of the Republic of Macedonia on behalf of

GROUP OF STATES

(Mr. Dusko Uzunovski, Minister Counselor, Chargé d'affaires a.i.)

Geneva, September 19, 2014

Mr. President,

The Republic of Macedonia is delivering this Cross Regional Statement on behalf of 38 states from all Regional Groups in the UN, which are listed as annex to the Statement.

1. We would like to begin by reemphasizing the importance and pivotal role of the Human Rights Council as a multilateral human rights body in reviewing human rights situations in all UN Member States. We stand committed to the UPR process as unique intergovernmental human rights mechanism focused on monitoring and improving the human rights situation on the ground through a cooperative interactive dialogue.

Mr. President,

2. At this juncture, we are pleased that the UPR principles of universality, openness and inclusiveness have been continuously upheld and we note with appreciation that 49 countries have already submitted mid-term reports on their implementation of the accepted UPR recommendations, voluntary practice among the member and observer states that is helpful in tracking their progress. At the same time, we encourage and invite other states to consider submitting mid-term reports during the Second cycle.
3. We welcome the initiative to increase the role of the Parliaments in the UPR Process. We do share the opinion that the Parliaments can further contribute to the implementation of the accepted recommendations at the national level.

4. We also note with appreciation that some states have organized an interactive dialogue with the CSO on a voluntary basis, immediately after the interactive dialogue at the session of the WG on UPR. We invite the UN member states to eventually consider this practice for the future.
5. Furthermore, we wish to thank the states which have already contributed to the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review. In our view, this provides direct support to the process, which is based on the universality of coverage and equal treatment of all countries.

Mr. President,

6. Despite the progress achieved with the UPR over the past several years, we note that the situation with human rights in certain countries is deteriorating and in some others is stagnating in implementation of the supported UPR recommendations. We welcome the efforts of the OHCHR to find or prepare a set of tools to share good practices and examples that will assist the member states as they seek to address the recommendations from the UPR. In our view, that will open space for a new dynamism in the third cycle of the UPR process and in the implementation of the accepted recommendations. For the cases where the Council notes further stagnation in the implementation of the accepted recommendations, the Council could explore the existing documents adopted by the HR Council, in determining whether and how to react.
7. We call upon states to make efforts to uphold, strengthen and support the mission of the UPR mechanism. Eventual action as mentioned in this statement will also add to the HRC's credibility and its performance as a key feature of the UN HR system.

We trust that this future practice of the HRC is in full conformity with the UNGA Res 60/251, and all relevant resolutions of the HRC.

Thank you, Mr. President

Annex

List of States:

1. France
2. Romania
3. Montenegro
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Namibia
6. Austria
7. Poland
8. Argentina
9. Slovenia
10. Czech Republic
11. United Kingdom
12. Turkey
13. Spain
14. Lithuania
15. Albania
16. Sweden
17. Croatia
18. Hungary
19. Finland
20. Bulgaria
21. Denmark
22. Portugal
23. Netherlands
24. Monaco
25. Estonia
26. Moldova
27. Paraguay
28. Ireland
29. Switzerland
30. Georgia
31. USA
32. Republic of Korea
33. Uruguay
34. Maldives
35. Italy
36. Peru
37. Morocco
38. Australia