



Oral Statement of the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative at the Ambassadorial Retreat on the Review of the UN Human Rights Council, December 2010

Thank you Mr President, I represent the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative, a South based organisation working for the practical realisation of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth.

We thank His Excellency the Ambassador of Morocco, facilitator for the UPR, for his detailed and structured presentation yesterday.

My statement represents the views of my organisation and draws upon conclusions reached at several NGO discussions focused on the UPR, in the context of the Council's review. The following are key points we would like to raise:

1. Impact on the ground and the effectiveness and efficiency of the Council should be enhanced by strengthening all stakeholder participation to include:
 - a. Mandatory national consultations both on the SuR report and on follow up to recommendations from the previous cycle
 - b. Full participation of all stakeholders including non-ECOSOC accredited NGOs at the adoption of outcomes during Plenary sessions
 - c. Participation in the UPR process through video conferencing;
 - d. Updates to Council by all stakeholders on the follow up to adopted recommendations

2. Impact on the ground could be further enhanced through improving current documentation and follow up processes by:
 - a. Making a provision for OHCHR to present compilations and summaries prior to the interactive dialogues
 - b. Making a provision for NHRIs to present a fourth document as a basis of the review
 - c. Including mandatory interim reports by states on follow up to UPR recommendations
 - d. Making technical assistance to states subject to submission of effective implementation plans on UPR recommendations

3. Efficiency and effectiveness of the Council could also be reinforced through the strengthening of UPR recommendations by:

- a. Not introducing any limitations to the number of recommendations per state
- b. Considering previously non-accepted recommendations at the second cycle
- c. Ensuring the conformity of recommendations with international human rights law
- d. Making it mandatory for the SuR to include a written addendum providing responses to recommendations

The UPR is a unique mechanism to review the performance of states with regards to human rights and is complementary to other Council mechanisms. In this context we would like to emphasise that the UPR mechanism should not be considered either as a replacement or as an alternative to existing and future methods to examine country situations

Thank you Mr President

Delivered by R. Iniyar Ilango on behalf of Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative on 9 December 2010 in Bangkok