

الجمهورية الجزائرية الديمقراطية الشعبية

RÉPUBLIQUE ALGÉRIENNE DÉMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE

MISSION PERMANENTE
AUPRÈS DE L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES ORGANISATIONS INTERNATIONALES
EN SUISSE



البعثة الدائمة
لدى مكتب الأمم المتحدة
والمنظمات الدولية بسويسرا

Consultation on Universal Periodic Review and Mechanism Review Geneva 21 July 2006

Statement of the Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Algeria in the name of the African Group

Item on Universal Periodic Review

Geneva, 21 July 2006.

Mr. President,

I am making this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The Universal Periodical Review (UPR) is a broad subject encompassing a wide range of issues. The Group would like to present its contribution on the different aspects related to this question as follows:

Guidelines

- The UPR mechanism while focused solely on human rights should be guided by the spirit of the Peer Review Mechanism of NEPAD. The purpose is to promote cooperative action between member states to uphold and protect human rights world-wide through an evaluation at country level of the fulfillment by each country of the human rights obligations it has accepted.
- The purpose of UPR mechanism is not to set itself as a tribunal.
- UPR should give recognition to the universality of key fundamentals values that are shared by the international community and to the cultural and social specificities and level of development of each country.
- UPR mechanism should be cooperative, transparent and non-confrontational in nature, with a focus on dialogue and technical assistance, with full support to the relevant state.
- UPR should be manageable, objective and pragmatic, and should not impose reporting obligations on states duplicating with those required by existing human rights bodies or otherwise entail undue reporting burdens.

Timeline:

- The evaluation process should start upon approval of the UPR mechanism.
- If completion is achieved before the allocated timeframe of one year, then the process can start giving priority to Members whose terms are shorter and establishing a blend of one to three with Non Members.
- While average time devoted to each evaluation by the Council would be half a day, adjustment may be made on case by case basis according to the rule of proportionality.
- The quality of the review should take precedence over speed with which the modalities for the review will be completed.

Process:

- Country reports will be prepared by the Member states and submitted to the Council for review under the UPR mechanism through interaction with independent national experts.
- To complete country reports, other inputs will be drawn from relevant reports or sections thereof of Treaty Bodies and Special Rapporteurs.
- The country report plus these other inputs will constitute the country UPR report.
- This report will review:
 - a) Compliance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
 - b) Compliance with human rights treaties obligations;
 - c) Compliance with voluntary pledges and commitments made during the election process to the Human Right Council;
- The Council will examine the UPR report in plenary and issue recommendations. This may be preceded by a review in a Council working group.

Follow up:

- In order to avoid duplication, the follow up on recommendations will be ensured by the country concerned and the relevant human right bodies .
- In order to give concrete content to the cooperative nature of UPR, ad hoc funding arrangement and the necessary technical assistance will be provided on agreement between HRC and OHCHR and the requesting member states to enable governments fulfill follow-up recommendations.

Criteria of selection:

- Priority, as a rule, to one-year term Council Members.
- Then to two-year term Council Members
- For Non Members priority to those candidates at the forthcoming Council lection.
- Equitable geographic distribution for the election of all members.