

Draft Statement of the African Group on Item 6 (UPR)

Mr President

I have the honor to take the floor on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group would like to reaffirm its full cooperation for the success of the Universal Periodic Review. We believe that the success of the Human Rights Council will to a large degree depend on the success of the UPR. Therefore it is the Group's view that this process should remain intergovernmental in nature, and that it does not duplicate other human rights mechanisms particularly the work of the treaty bodies.

Furthermore, the African Group emphasizes that the review exercise should be a cooperative one in which the international community ensures that the needs of individual member states for capacity building and for technical and financial support be met so as to assist them in their efforts to promote and protect human rights at the national level. In the mean time, the Group reaffirms the overriding objective to ensure the universality of the principles governing the review process, and that all rights for all countries should be examined without any double standard or selectivity.

It is our firm belief that we all share the same ideals and the sense of ownership of human rights norms as they represent the outcome of a long historic process in which all cultures and civilizations have contributed. All countries be they from the North or the South alike have to exert more efforts in the direction of strengthening the implementation of their human rights commitments. We believe that it is incumbent on this Council to help countries in this exercise.

Mr Chairman

The African Group reaffirms its stated position that the first session of the UPR working group should be held after the March session of the Council. We believe that member states particularly those countries coming first under review have to be accorded enough time to prepare and engage in the broad consultation

- ① - Modalities for funding of W 6 & 2 reports (notes) (marks) - 13 text not sufficient
- ② - 2 Funds
- ③ - Mechanism for transition period
- ④ - to be dec. before Council of UPR
- ⑤ - including a clear road map

process needed to prepare the national report to be submitted to the UPR. As this is the first time we engage in this exercise, all parties need to prepare for the successful launch of the UPR process: states, the OHCHR, the human rights mechanisms, the troikas, and the other stakeholders.

In this regard, we take note with satisfaction of the efforts of the OHCHR to undertake a simulation of the selection process and we look forward to the actual selection to be undertaken this Friday of countries to be reviewed in the first four year cycle. The African group affirms that the UPR process should be based on the guidelines enunciated in the June 18th institution building text and on resolution 60/251 of the General Assembly. The determination of the list of countries to be reviewed in the various sessions of the UPR working group will allow countries a degree of predictability and hopefully enough time to prepare.

The African Group commends the Permanent Representative of Morocco for his efforts to facilitate arriving at a consensus on the General Guidelines for the preparation of information to be presented to the UPR process by member states and we look forward to the OHCHR abiding by the same structure and complying with the requirements enunciated in the Institution Building text namely that its compilations and summaries be based on objective and reliable information received from the part of the various stakeholders. x x

Mr President

The African Group would like to emphasize the need for the OHCHR to present member states with a road map to assist them in their national efforts to prepare for the review process. As this is still a new mechanism, and since developing countries in general, and Least Developed Countries in particular face institutional capacity constraints to prepare a multitude of national reports presented to treaty bodies, OHCHR should assist them in this process. It is our belief that the additional resources allocated to the work of the OHCHR will provide the Office with the needed flexibility to undertake this much needed support.

Finally,
→ We look forward to transparent &
inclusive consultation with media.