

**Human Rights Council**  
**19<sup>th</sup> Regular Session**  
**General Debate on Items 2/3**

**Intervention made by Egypt**  
**Geneva, 2 March, 2011**

Madame President,

My <sup>delegation</sup> comments concern reports 19/41 and 19/42 on sexual orientation and non-repatriation of illicit funds consecutively.

On the report number 19/41, my <sup>delegation</sup> considers that the report and its findings <sup>are</sup> is one in a series of attempts by the OHCHR to undertake a promotional role aimed at mainstreaming issues that go beyond the explicit provisions of international human rights instruments, including treaties signed up to by States Members of the United Nations, and hence fall outside the framework of international human rights law.

In this regard, it has to be underscored that the formulation and adoption of new international human rights standards and norms are the exclusive prerogative of States. The UN human rights system, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, is expected and should engage in promoting only the internationally agreed human rights rather than attempting to formulate new standards, especially those of controversial grounds. It has to be noted that the subject of the afore-mentioned report constitutes an infringement, a violation rather of the enjoyment of social and cultural rights.

As for the report number 19/42 on the non-repatriation of illicit funds to their countries of origin, it is an area to which my country accords particular attention. As mentioned by my ambassador yesterday, our national authorities have launched a series of steps to seek the repatriation of illicitly acquired funds, which would raise the capacity of the State to fulfill its human rights obligations, in particular in the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

Against this backdrop, my delegation appreciates the extensive analysis provided in the report in laying out the legal framework in relation to the non-repatriation of illicit funds to their countries of origin. We share the view that non-repatriation compromises attempts at upholding the rule of law at the national level and risks to perpetuate patterns of illicit acquisition of funds and other assets. We agree on the emphasis on notion of shared responsibility by the receiving state and the state of origin. This is closely linked with the international duty to cooperate, which is incumbent on states to fulfill. My delegation takes note of the recommendations contained in the report, and this regard wishes to underline the

need for policy coherence and consistency in addressing the human rights aspects related to the non-repatriation of illicit funds to their countries of origin in other relevant UN and international fora. In our national capacity, we have sought to reflect the human rights concerns related thereto in discussions and Vienna-based processes on this issue and will continue to do so.

I thank you.