**Human Rights Council**

**41st session**

**Item 8**

**Joint Statement on the UN treaty bodies strengthening process**

Mr. President,

Belgium and Costa Rica have the honour to make this statement on behalf of a group of more than 50 countries who are strong proponents of the UN human rights treaty body system.

The treaty body system is a key component of the wider UN human rights framework. Treaty bodies contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide as they monitor state compliance with their international obligations and develop general recommendations on their application.

As we approach the 2020 review of the human rights treaty body system, we wish to reiterate our strong support for GA resolution 68/268 and the improvements introduced by this resolution to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the system.

Our ultimate goal has always been to reinforce the implementation of States’ obligations, to preserve the integrity and the independence of the treaty bodies for the benefit of the rights-holders and the victims of human rights violations on the ground, and to safeguard the continued involvement of civil society in the treaty body work.

We wish to underline that we remain committed to this goal. We will continue to work constructively in favor of an effective, independent, accessible, strong and sustainable system. Its unique value needs to be preserved. Where needed the system should be further strengthened, inter alia by introducing more streamlined and coherent working methods. We should also explore ways to enhance the consistency in the application of individual communications procedures.

Furthermore, we welcome recent steps taken by treaty bodies to harmonize the implementation of the San Jose Guidelines and we encourage them to pursue their efforts in addressing the issue of reprisals.

We look forward to further engaging with all relevant stakeholders, both here and in New York, including from civil society, the academic sector and the treaty bodies themselves.

I thank you.

**List of countries**

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| --- | --- |
| 1. Angola
2. Argentina
3. Australia
4. Austria
5. Bahamas
6. Belgium
7. Bulgaria
8. Canada
9. Chile
10. Costa Rica
11. Croatia
12. Cyprus
13. Czechia
14. Denmark
15. Estonia
16. Fiji
17. Finland
18. France
19. Georgia
20. Germany
21. Greece
22. Honduras
23. Hungary
24. Iceland
25. Ireland
 | 1. Israel
2. Italy
3. Latvia
4. Liechtenstein
5. Lithuania
6. Luxembourg
7. Malta
8. Mexico
9. Moldova
10. Monaco
11. Montenegro
12. Netherlands
13. New Zealand
14. Norway
15. Paraguay
16. Peru
17. Poland
18. Portugal
19. Romania
20. Slovenia
21. Sweden
22. Switzerland
23. Tunisia
24. Turkey
25. Ukraine
26. Uruguay
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