

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

1. Angola	26. Israel
2. Argentina	27. Italy
3. Australia	28. Latvia
4. Austria	29. Liechtenstein
5. Bahamas	30. Lithuania
6. Belgium	31. Luxembourg
7. Bulgaria	32. Malta
8. Canada	33. Mexico
9. Chile	34. Moldova
10. Costa Rica	35. Monaco
11. Croatia	36. Montenegro
12. Cyprus	37. Netherlands
13. Czechia	38. New Zealand
14. Denmark	39. Norway
15. Estonia	40. Paraguay
16. Fiji	41. Peru
17. Finland	42. Poland
18. France	43. Portugal
19. Georgia	44. Romania
20. Germany	45. Slovenia
21. Greece	46. Sweden
22. Honduras	47. Switzerland
23. Hungary	48. Tunisia
24. Iceland	49. Turkey
25. Ireland	50. Ukraine
	51. Uruguay