

**Human Rights Council – 43<sup>rd</sup> Session**  
**Item 2 General Debate**  
**Mountains Statement**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of: [Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland].

We reaffirm our commitment to stand up for the human rights principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Vienna Declaration and Program of Action.

We fully agree with High Commissioner Bachelet that human rights are the interlocking elements that build resilient and confident societies – societies able to withstand and surmount threats, peacefully resolve disputes, and facilitate sustained progress in prosperity and well-being for all their members. Every step towards greater respect for and implementation of human rights is an act of prevention – strengthening bonds between communities and trust in Government, and reinforcing inclusive development and peace. To achieve this outcome we all need to promote and respect all human rights equally.

We fully support the Office of the High Commissioner's prevention shift outlined in the Roadmap to 2021, and affirm the important role this Council and its mandates can play in the prevention of human rights violations and abuses around the world.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights is a key element of the international human rights system. The High Commissioner's independence and objectivity warrant respect for the role and its functions. The High Commissioner's statements require our careful consideration.

We should all support the protection and promotion of all human rights, politically and financially. We support the High Commissioner – and the Office – speaking out on difficult situations around the world. And we condemn any attempts to intimidate or conduct reprisals against the High Commissioner, the Office, or any of the independent mandate holder of this Council, as a result of speaking out.

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