

**43<sup>rd</sup> HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**GENERAL DEBATE - ITEM 5**

**JUNE 15 2020**

**JOINT STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF FRIENDS OF SPECIAL PROCEDURES**

Mme. President,

We want to start by thanking you, the Bureau and the Secretariat, for the efforts you have displayed in resuming the 43<sup>rd</sup> Human Rights Session.

The Group of Friends of the UN Special Procedures<sup>1</sup> is happy to announce that Australia and Fiji have joined us and we will deliver a short statement based on the Special Procedures report issued just before this session was suspended.

During 2019, our Group continued meeting with the Coordination Committee reinforcing the dialogue and the mutual trust that our States and Mandate Holders agree are vital.

We want to stress the continued engagement of the Coordination Committee with all States through the informal meetings and conversations. Comments, suggestions and concerns are being addressed and will help improve the system. We strongly call on all States to continue to engage in these exercises.

Mme. President, we would like to share the highlights of the Report:

- As of 31 December 2019, 171 Member States, had received at least one visit from a mandate holder. 7 new standing invitations were recorded, 1 State accepted several visits for the first time and other two were visited for the first time
- The mandate holders presented 182 reports, where issues such as access to justice, prevention of mass atrocities, gender perspective and environment have been extensively considered. We thank Special Procedures for their sustained efforts on proving substantial reports that enrich our debates.
- During 2019, Special procedures and their Coordination Committee have continued to engage with all the stakeholders, particularly within the United Nations, to ensure that human rights have the place they deserve within the system and therefore, enhance the

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<sup>1</sup> . Group of Friends of Special Procedures: Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Estonia, Fiji, Ireland, Latvia, Morocco, Mexico, Norway, Peru, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, Uruguay.

impact of the work of special procedures, in particular in the context of the recent reforms of the United Nations system.

- Follow-up and implementation of Special Procedures assessments, conclusions and recommendations continue to be prioritized and strongly support by our Group. The “Facts and figures” report (A/HRC/43/64) shows the extensive work that was done during 2019 regarding follow-up.

Mme. President, we would like to conclude recognizing the quick response Special Procedures’ mandate holders have had since the outbreak of COVID-19. We specially commend their effort of sending a shared questionnaire by several mandate-holders, showing their commitment to coordinate and making so, helping out States.