

37th Session of the Human Rights Council

Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming

The Promotion and protection of human rights in the light of the universal periodic review mechanism: Challenges and opportunities

Geneva, 26 February 2018

15.00-18.00

Joint Statement on behalf of MIKTA

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of MIKTA countries, namely Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey, and Australia.

Mr. President,

We thank the panelists for their presentations.

MIKTA strongly supports the UPR mechanism as a useful tool for Member States to undertake a voluntary domestic assessment and provides a unique opportunity for peer review. The UPR has made a valuable contribution by enabling all 193 Member States to engage in honest and constructive dialogue with their peers.

The international community has an inherent interest in maintaining a strong and effective UPR, to mainstream human

rights. All States should be well-informed of the process and have access to the tools and information to enhance engagement with the UPR. We underline the importance of the continued contribution towards providing technical assistance and capacity-building, and the sharing of good practices.

For the UPR to fully deliver on its promise, we would wish to highlight the following points:

First, the UPR process should remain universal, independent, and impartial. UPR is a cooperative mechanism based on objective and reliable information, as well as interactive dialogue. It should be conducted in a transparent, non-selective, and constructive manner – free from politicization.

Second, the quality rather than quantity of recommendations is essential. We encourage State peers to provide precise recommendations and avoid including multiple issues into one recommendation. UPR recommendations should be constructive, forward-looking, implementable and taking into account national capacities.

Third, the valuable contribution of civil societies and National Human Rights Institutions in the UPR process is undebatable. Close cooperation between civil society, NHRIs, and government is therefore vital throughout the UPR process, in the preparation of the UPR, the follow-up and implementation.

Fourth, we reiterate our continued support for strengthening national follow-up systems and processes. National mechanisms for implementation, reporting, and follow-up play a role in ensuring effective coordination, tracking progress and impact, as well as mobilizing support both internally and externally.

Mr. President,

We believe the UPR is a successful human rights mechanism. We hope the principles and objectives of the UPR, the sources of its strength and effectiveness, be maintained in to the future.

Thank you.

(approx. 366 words, speaking time: 3 minutes)