

Human Rights Council - 37th Session

General Debate on Item 5

14 March 2018

MIKTA Statement on Human Rights Council Strengthening

I am pleased to make this statement on behalf of MIKTA – that is Mexico, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Turkey and Australia.

2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This historic milestone is the right time to reflect on the Council's successes and shortcomings. It is important that the Council is well placed to address the complex human rights challenges facing the world in 2018 and beyond.

We reaffirm our commitment to the Council through our own good practice and by engaging with Council and its mechanisms in a spirit of self-reflection and good faith.

We consider the Human Rights Council has had many successes, but we also recognize that it could be more efficient and effective in undertaking its vital work. Its workload has become increasingly unmanageable.

We thank the President and the Bureau for their commitment to work with member states to identify measures to improve the efficiency of the HRC's work, including the efficiency of the work of the Special Procedures Mandate Holders, so the Council can effectively discharge its mandate. MIKTA will seek to engage constructively in this process, and encourages all member States to do the same

We support efforts to enhance dialogue inside and outside the Council, including striving to create a safe and enabling environment for civil society, in order to promote mutual understanding and trust.

We also encourage ongoing efforts to strengthen coordination between the HRC and UN processes in New York, especially the Third Committee, and to strengthen dialogue with regional bodies, who often have a critical role to play in providing technical assistance and support.



We support efforts to increase the capacity of Small States to engage with the Council, recognizing that the Council is most efficient when it is universal in its participation and the full diversity of global voices are heard.

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