

Human Rights Council – 44th session

Introductory Statement for the resolution on The contribution of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations
17 July 2020

[Delivered by Australia]

Thank you Madam President.

On behalf of the core group of Bulgaria, Fiji, Maldives, Mexico, Togo and my own country Australia, I am honoured to present to the Council draft resolution L.17 Rev.1 titled *Contribution of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations*.

Commemorating the 75th anniversary of the United Nations provides a timely opportunity for this Council to reaffirm its collective commitment to multilateralism, and to core principles including the universality, indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This resolution asks the Office of the High Commissioner for Human rights to prepare a report. Its purpose is to facilitate a greater understanding of the manner in which full respect for these fundamental human rights principles contributes to realising the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as laid down by its bedrock document, the UN Charter.

The core group carefully considered all comments received during informal and bilateral consultations. As many proposals as possible were accommodated to maintain a balanced text that reinforces the interdependent and mutually reinforcing relationship of human rights with the United Nations' two other pillars of peace and security, and development. We are pleased this resolution has already received strong cross-regional co-sponsorship. We thank all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout negotiations.

Madam President, I would now like to pass the floor to [Togo] [His Excellency, the Permanent Representative of Togo].

[Delivered by Togo]

Madame President, in February this year, the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed the Human Rights Council to make an appeal in favour of action on Human Rights.

The Secretary-General said he was motivated to make this announcement at the Human Rights Council during the 75th anniversary year of the United Nations because of the centrality of human rights in all that the UN does.

Madam President, this Council is expressly mandated to promote the effective coordination and the integration of human rights within the United Nations system.

Of course, the Council cannot does not have competency to define a hierarchy of rights or pillars within the United Nations system, and that was not the aim of this core group in presenting this resolution. That was not the aim of this core group

However, the core group remains convinced that this Council can – and *must* - make a collective statement on the importance of human rights to all of the work of the United Nations, particularly on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

That is why we invite the Council to adopt draft resolution L.17 Rev.1 by consensus.