

Bangladesh

Mr. President,

The Human Rights Council is soon entering into the fourth year of its existence. Stock taking has already started as we noted in the statement of many dignitaries during the High level segment. If we take into account the achievements so far, the Council has delivered. With the stream-lining of human rights procedures and mechanisms, innovative conduct of special sessions and introduction of Universal Periodic Review, Human Rights Council is now equipped with instruments necessary to deal with global human rights. Needless to say, the Council would do better, if we engage ourselves with more resolve with more objectivity, if we seek consensus, dialogue and understanding. If we recognize others sensitivities, if we avoid applying double standards, if we treat all human rights equally and all violations according to severity, not on political preference.

We have heard very encouraging remarks from the distinguished representatives in course of the High level segment. Almost all of them stressed the importance of the strengthened Human Rights Council. Many of them underscored necessity to reach out, they reiterated equality, universality and indivisibility of all human rights. These comments and aspirations are well taken. We would like to see reflection on the ground. We would welcome any initiative to reach out with the aim of building consensus. It should not mean imposition of ideas, beliefs and convictions of one society over others. We must support economic social rights as much as we do for civil political rights. As we care for civil liberty, torture, or overcrowding in detention centres, we should also be equally concerned about existence of poverty, hunger, deprivation and underdevelopment. We have noticed discussion on economic issue to drag on civil liberties often unjustifiably and dilute the thrust. I give the example of our discussion on poverty. We all agree poverty is an affront to human dignity. Poverty results in the lack of economic empowerment and deprives many to exercise their civil, political, social and cultural rights. I have seen in our debates on human rights and poverty, we tend to deliberate more on the discrimination aspect, meaning the civil rights of the poor, than on the root cause of poverty, reduction or eradication of which would have tremendous impact on the enjoyment of whole range of human rights. Had there been equality of treatment existed, so many would not have referred to the issue.

We heard comments that members should not hide behind the regional or ideological groupings. Certainly, human rights situations should be treated on their merits, not political convenience. Those who espouse the idea should themselves set examples taking positions outside respective blocks. We must practice first before we profess to others.

Humanity is facing three extraordinary challenges today. The global economic crisis, the food crisis and the climate change are threatening existence of populations.

Consequences of these crises are severe on the impoverished societies, particularly their enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. Special attention should be paid to those countries who are not capable of addressing these challenges. International cooperation and solidarity would be essential. As human rights become a global concern, so should be the responsibility of the global community.