

Statement of Egypt on behalf of NAM Member States
Agenda Item 4.4 (Agenda and framework for Programme of work,
Methods of Work and Rules of Procedure)
1st Meeting of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group
on the Review of the Work and Functioning of the HRC
(Thursday, 28th of October 2010)

Mr. President,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Non-aligned Movement.

The NAM attaches great importance to the issue of fine-tuning the current frame of the methods of work of the HRC, benefiting from the functioning experiences witnessed since the establishment of the Council.

We would like to stress the fact that the agenda of the HRC is more streamlined than that of the previous Commission on Human Rights. It provides a more comprehensive and balanced treatment of all dimensions of the mandate of the HRC and represents an extremely delicate balance that should be preserved. The NAM reaffirms the imperative of maintaining the Agenda as is, and hereby makes a concrete proposal to this effect. We reiterate that we are not in a position to entertain any attempt to temper with the Agenda of the Council.

Mr. President

On the periodicity of regular HRC sessions and duration, the HRC shall continue to meet in three sessions for a total of ten weeks every year, as follows:

The First Session: shall discuss all agenda items except agenda Item 6. It would last for five weeks and can be convened in February/March.

The Second Session: shall discuss all agenda items except agenda Item 6. It could be convened in June and would last three weeks.

The Third Session: shall be dedicated to the adoption of the reports of the UPR Working Group as well as a General Debate under agenda Item 6. It can be convened in September/October.

On the general side of the program of work, the NAM believes that:

- a) The HRC Program of Work should be rationalized and rendered more manageable to diminish the overload of work for delegations, and to avoid duplication and repetition throughout the annual cycle.
- b) While The NAM respects the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as stipulated in resolution 48/141, it should be underscored that there is a need to ensure better synergy and coordination between HRC and the OHCHR, and to build a constructive working relation and dialogue between both bodies. It is also important to ensure that the Strategic Framework and the Strategic Management Plan of the Office are consistent

with the agreed international human rights law instruments, as well as the HRC resolutions.

On the other hand, and on the operative side, we propose the following:

- a) High Commissioner shall report to the HRC only once a year at the main session of the HRC. The reports of the High Commissioner to other sessions shall be restricted to new developments and challenges since the previous Council session.
- b) If there is an urgent human rights situation that occur during regular HRC's sessions, then the relevant Agenda item shall be brought forward on the programme of work.
- c) An item on the OHCHR draft Strategic Framework should be included in the programme of work of the Council every two years under Agenda item 2. The High Commissioner would present the draft Strategic Framework to the HRC prior to its submission to the General Assembly. The President of the HRC should send a report reflecting discussions held within HRC to the General Assembly and to the Committee on Program and Coordination as an input to their consideration of the draft strategic framework by the High Commissioner.
- d) The HRC should include an item in its program of work on "The OHCHR Strategic Management Plan" every two years under Agenda item 2; where the High Commissioner would present the draft Strategic Management Plan (SMP) to the Council and an interactive dialogue shall take place between Member/Observer States and the High Commissioner. The HRC will ensure its consistency with the Strategic Framework adopted by the General Assembly and with HRC resolutions.

On the issue of Special Sessions, we are convinced that the current mandate of the HRC should be preserved as outlined in the provisions of the GA Resolution 60/251. Special sessions held by the Council allowed participatory debates, were results-oriented and were geared towards achieving practical outcomes, the implementation of which were monitored and reported on at following regular sessions of the Council which has followed-up on their results.

Concerning the Role of President and Bureau, Presidential Statements should be made only after extensive consultations with States and on the basis of consensus. Also, the President and the Bureau shall maintain a strictly procedural and organisational role, as stipulated for in rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure.

On the adoption of resolutions, the NAM proposes:

- a) Proliferation of resolutions and duplication with GA resolutions should be avoided as much as possible, allowing more time for negotiations on resolutions before action, early notification of meetings, and avoiding the holding of parallel consultations.
- b) The Council should devise a method to ensure that Member states are well apprised with the outcome of the negotiations conducted in informal meetings, before the resolutions or decisions are brought to the Council for action.

- c) The President's open-ended information meetings on resolutions, decisions and other related business as stipulated in Paragraph 112 of the IB text shall be implemented.
- d) The introduction of a two third majority for the adoption of country-specific resolutions should be considered.

Mr. President

The NAM finds that special attention has to be given to the issue of improving the Human Rights coordination and mainstreaming system wide. HRC should consider devoting a half day panel at least once a year to interact with Heads of UN Agencies on specific human rights themes. This would enable the Council to address related issues requiring further coordination or mainstreaming system-wide. The OHCHR, as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council, shall prepare the required documentation for the panel. The outcome of the panel could be in the form of a negotiated Presidential Statement in the Council. Synergy with the Third Committee of the UNGA should be encouraged in order to avoid overlapping.

We also note that the availability of working documents in due time and in the six UN languages constitutes an important challenge for the functioning of the HRC. To solve this problem, necessary funds should be allocated to the translation of these documents. HRC President should consult with UNGA President on options for fast-track approval by the General Assembly of HRC resolutions with financial implications, and HRC should make appropriate recommendations on its own budget lines and on those of its subsidiary bodies.

Mr. President

In conclusion, the NAM reiterates its commitment to work with other partners, in a spirit of constructiveness and openness, aiming to reach a mutual understanding on this vital aspect of the review of the work and function of the Council.

I thank you.