



**PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY**

**REVIEW OF THE WORK AND FUNCTIONING OF  
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL  
OPEN-ENDED INTERGOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP  
ITEM 5: DISCUSSION ON ALL CONCRETE PROPOSALS**

**STATEMENT BY**

**MINISTER COUNSELLOR BEATE STIRØ**

**PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS OFFICE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL  
ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA**

**Geneva, 29 October 2010**

**Check against delivery**



Mr. President,

We have heard many interesting proposals this week. Today we only have time to comment on a few, but look forward to further discussions of all proposals.

Norway supports the proposal to devote a half day panel to mainstreaming of human rights in the UN system once a year. Further, we support proposals seeking to ensure that the best qualified candidates for Special Procedures vacancies are identified and appointed. The proposal of mini sessions to debate topics or situations is creative and deserves follow up in the process ahead, as do all proposals aimed at increasing the councils ability to address urgent situations.

Other proposals made will in our view reduce the Council's ability to deliver on its mandate and run against the objective of the review process:

The proposal to reduce the number of regular sessions from three to two will drastically affect our ability to discuss and act upon human rights situations and challenges within the year. We need to explore more efficient and flexible ways to address urgent human rights violations without selectivity. We cannot support proposals that will limit our ability to act.

Neither can we support proposals that will disturb the negotiated compromise of a 4 year cycle for the UPR by extending it to 5 years. This will reduce the value of the UPR and make it even more difficult to ensure that all council members are reviewed during their membership period. We also oppose the proposal to have a year long break between the first and second UPR cycle.

The special procedures are fundamental to the work of the Council. We believe our focus should be on how to strengthen their ability to work, enhance cooperation between states and special procedures and improve their interaction with the Council. Key elements here are a stronger focus on State responsibility to cooperate, increasing financial resources and political support and allowing more time to interactive dialogue in the Council. The proposals to establish a legal committee to strengthen the Council's control of Special Procedures send a message of distrust rather than recognition, and represent an approach we strongly oppose. It took long time and many efforts to reach consensus on resolution 5/2 of the IB-package. It has a balance which is fundamentally disturbed by these proposals.

We support full transparency with regard to voluntary contributions to specific mandate holders, but would advice against establishment of rigid rules restricting their ability to seek financial support outside the regular budget of the UN.

In closing we would like to offer two proposals related to the problem of reprisals against those who cooperate with the UN Human Rights mechanisms. We propose to devote a half day panel under item 5 once a year for the discussion of instances of reprisals, including the SGs annual report on reprisals. Furthermore, we propose that the states mentioned in the report of the SG on reprisals should be required to report regularly to the council on measures taken to investigate allegations and hold perpetrators to account.

Thank you, Mr. President.

