

**Statement by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group on the  
Resumed Second Session of the Open-ended Working Group on  
the Review of the Work and Functioning of the Human Rights  
Council**

17<sup>th</sup> February 2011

**Mr. President,**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the African Group.

At the outset, we wish to commend you, Mr. President, for your dedication to duty, your ability to reach out to all concerned and indeed the energy with which you execute your functions. We are particularly delighted that you managed to present to us a negotiating text, stringing together the divergent views expressed since the beginning of this process.

However, we wish to express the views of the Group on the rather imbalanced nature of the elements you presented in the text. We had expected the equal treatment of proposals based on based on the convergence of views on such proposals. Having said that, the African Group would make the following comments regarding the various sections of the text before us:  
Universal Periodic Review:

Under Periodicity and order of the Review, paragraph 3, we prefer a **five year** periodicity.

On paragraph 5, we propose the addition of the following words at the end of the sentence **exclusively for the adoption of the UPR Working Group Report**. This is to ensure the dedication of these sessions for what they are envisaged to achieve.

On paragraph 7 (a), the African Group would like to insert the words **accepted recommendations of the State under Review contained in the** before the word *outcome*. This is in recognition of the cooperative nature of the UPR process.

Similarly in paragraph 9 line two, we seek the insertion of the words **accepted recommendations contained in the** before the word *outcome*.

On paragraph 14, while acknowledging the increase of allocation of time for the State under Review as well as Member and Observer States of the Human Rights Council, we notice the non-mentioning of the NGOs in this arrangement.

On paragraph 16, the African Group proposes that the words the **modalities thereto** should be inserted before the words *operationalized* in line 2. At the end of the paragraph, we propose an additional sentence to read as follows: **The Strengthening and operationalization process should be finalized by the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Council.**

On paragraph 18, we suggest that the words *in accordance* in line 2 should be replaced with the word **consistent**. We also seek the deletion of the second sentence completely because we do see its value addition.

On paragraph 19, line 1, the African Group seeks the deletion of the word *primary*. This is because we feel such a qualification gives the impression as though there are other entities that have the responsibility to implement UPR outcomes.

Similarly, we insert the words **accepted recommendations contained in the** before the word *outcome*.

On paragraph 21 (a), the African Group is totally opposed to the notion of implementation plan. This is not only because such a requirement places extra burden on States, but also because of the difficulty in keeping to the plan. Therefore, we seek the deletion of the sentence.

On 21 (b), our preferred formulation is a **midterm update** as opposed to *midterm report*.

I thank you.