

Human Rights Council

Egypte

Fourteenth Regular Session

Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, the Independent Expert on the issue of extreme poverty and the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women

Intervention made by Egypt

Geneva, 3 June 2010

Mr. President,

My delegation aligns itself with the comments made by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC and by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

My first set of comments relates to the report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health. Egypt places particular emphasis on this right. We are of the view that discrimination of any form should not violate this right or impede access to basic health care. However, it is highly regrettable that we have before us today a report on this specific right, which unfortunately defeats the purpose of a meaningful and substantive discussion. Through the theme chosen for this year's report presented to the Council, the SR on the right to health has not only stepped over his mandate. He has gone as far as prescribing to sovereign member states how to devise and enact their national laws and legislation against their national norms and cultural specificities. This is also done on issues that do not fall within the scope of internationally agreed human rights norms and principles. Special procedures of this Council derive their mandates from this Council's resolutions drawn up by its member and observer states. Exercising their independence does not in any way entail attempts to push for highly controversial issues and delve into areas that are not internationally agreed upon. As much as we used to value the work of the Special Rapporteur Mr. Anand Grover, it is sad to watch him risk our support by singling out a certain group of individuals in a manner that is disrespectful of the larger constituency of this august body.

urgent action. We also welcome the emphasis placed by Ms. Carmona on the enhancement of international cooperation in this area, taking into consideration the limited capacities of developing countries and least developed countries to address such concerns.

I thank you.