

Joint Statement on the Promotion of Preventive Approaches within the UN System

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the following states Russia, Egypt, Pakistan, Cuba, China, Thailand, Belarus, Sri-Lanka, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, India and Algeria, *Syria, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Venezuela, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Bahrain*

According to a wise saying - 'prevention is better than cure'. Similarly the approaches to international work on human rights, in particular, of the UN, have been evolving over the time and the realization that it is far better to prevent human rights abuses rather than to try and 'cure' the problem, for example, by sending in peacekeepers, is being advocated.

In today's world, promotion and protection of human rights involves more than just monitoring and naming and shaming. There is an increasing recognition that genuine improvements in human rights situations are dependent not only on adequate resources required for long-term efforts in the fields of education, institutional strengthening and capacity-building but also by the full realization of economic and social rights, including the right to development.

And while the primary responsibility to protect its populations against violations of human rights lies with national governments, the international community, including the UN, should assist the States in their work for achievement of full realization of human rights and in their preventive endeavors as well. The concept of promotion of preventive approaches can be acceptable only to the extent of its applicability at national level without having any implicit or explicit interference in the internal affairs of any state.

Mr. President,

We have taken note of the UN Secretary General's five year action agenda launched in 2012 where advancing a preventive approach to human rights was identified among the priorities. In order to be effectively implemented, this new preventive approach needs to be a state-driven initiative with well-defined criteria, which should be clearly outlined in the UN policy framework and adopted by consensus of all members. The UN's cardinal rules of universalization, transparency, impartiality, proportionality and accountability must remain as our key guiding principles while embarking on all such new initiatives.

We are convinced that creating a strong national capacity for protecting and promoting human rights is the fundamental element of any preventive strategy

against human rights violations. Thus the focus of the UN in the field of preventing human rights abuses should be on technical and advisory assistance to States which must remain as the main actors, in order to build and further strengthen their national capacities in the field of human rights.

The UN human rights machinery in collaboration with a number of UN entities and bodies has developed by now a full range of different tools for assisting respective national governments such as technical cooperation and advisory services. There is definitely a need for greater and effective consistency and coherence within the UN system on this track in order to avoid duplication and ensure efficiency in provision of needed and requested assistance to States.

The Human Rights Council, which was mandated by the GA resolution 60/251 to "contribute , through dialogue and cooperation, towards the prevention of human rights violations", has come up with a separate agenda item 10 which especially deals with strengthening national capacity in the field of human rights. At the same time we should recognize that the Council could be more effective on the preventive agenda if the principle of cooperation becomes the true cornerstone of its work. If the effort and funds, invested into naming and shaming, were spent for technical assistance in a fair and practical manner, the result would be far more effective. Let us not forget that the Council's major task is to aid States in addressing human rights challenges and to build up their potential to promote and protect human rights.

Thank you, Mr. President.