

**24th Annual Meeting of the United Nations Special Procedures
Statement by Amnesty International, 29 June 2017**

Thank you, Chairperson.

Amnesty International is one of the signatories to the joint NGO document coordinated by ISHR. Today, I focus my remarks on a few of the issues it raises.

Amnesty International has long advocated for specific steps to be taken by the Human Rights Council to increase its focus on cooperation by States and others with the Special Procedures. The challenge is to make States feel compelled to respond and make clear that non-cooperation comes with a cost. We consider that there should be a dedicated space within the Council agenda to discuss non-cooperation, including through an inter-active dialogue.

We welcome the OHCHR searchable database for communications. We note that Special Procedure mandate holders already publish communications that relate to draft legislation before the publication of the Communications report. We are of the view that it would be useful if communications were made public once the confidential period for responses has passed. And that government responses are made available as of when received. It would also be useful for the database to indicate whether the responses received are substantive or procedural. Publishing the cases in a more timely manner would allow civil society actors to engage with States in order to ensure quick follow-up at the national level and would also allow us and others to assess the substance of responses.

We encourage the Special Procedures to include, in the annual report, a chapter on non-cooperation. This would include information related to country visits and communications, which should capture information on response rates and whether responses are substantive.

Assessing implementation is perhaps the greatest challenge confronting the system. A number of mandates has developed procedures for follow-up on individual cases and country recommendations. Amnesty International is keenly aware of the financial and human resource constraints faced by Special Procedures, and we are extremely grateful that you take on these important tasks and urge you to continue to develop these.

There is keen and growing interest among States, OHCHR, UN experts and NGOs about the evolution of national mechanisms for follow-up and reporting (NMRFs). Many States have or are setting up such mechanisms to facilitate implementation of international recommendations into national laws, policies and programmes and practices. We are grateful to OHCHR's Treaty Body Division and the UPR Branch for providing information on emerging patterns and good practices relating to NMRFs.

At the 34th session, the Council terminated the mandate on Haiti. In the relevant Presidential Statement, Haiti was asked to prepare a *plan of action* to implement the recommendations from human rights mechanisms including from the UPR and the Independent Expert and to "*establish a national mechanism for reporting and monitoring the fulfilment of targets and indicators related to technical assistance programmes, to establish a timetable for achieving the objectives set and to*

identify the resources required to implement this plan".¹ At the 35th session, the Council discontinued the mandate on Cote d'Ivoire on the basis of a sun-set clause but failed to include a recommendation for a NMRF in the Presidential Statement that would have contributed to ensure sustained follow-up and implementation.

We are conscious that there is no one-size fit all NMRF, but Amnesty International considers that it would be useful for the Special Procedure mandate holders to provide some guidelines on how these can facilitate the implementation of Special Procedure recommendations at the national level. We would also be keen to hear your perspectives on the mandate created by the Presidential Statement on Haiti in relation to the NMRF, especially in respect of Special Procedures' recommendations.

Thank you.

¹ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G17/081/94/PDF/G1708194.pdf?OpenElement> p. 21.