

Human Rights Council 40th session

ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr President,

Amnesty International and ISHR welcome the Special Procedures' [latest joint communications report](#), but are concerned about the troubling picture it provides. GA Resolution 60/251 requires all Member States to uphold the highest standards in promoting and protecting human rights and to 'fully cooperate with the Council'.

As the guardian of the Council's founding texts, we look to you to ensure full cooperation with the Council's mechanisms. According to the joint communications report, the Special Procedures sent communications to 95 countries, whereof 34 failed to respond to two or more communications. Of those, 13 are members of this Council. They include, Brazil, China, Egypt, Hungary, Peru, Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine¹. India has failed to reply to a staggering 8 communications, Mexico 6, Italy 5 and Bangladesh and Nepal 4 each.

A lack of timely and substantive response to Special Procedures not only undermines the integrity of this forum, but is plainly incompatible with Council membership.

We are also deeply worried to see that several communications are follow-up ones, or new communications relating to the same individuals, indicating the continuation of violations.

In light of this deeply disturbing situation, we urge you Mr President, to request speedy updates from these states and other non-responders on the status of these communications and to urge states to pay attention to the allegations in them, and take all measures to prevent further violations.

We welcome the [report of the Annual Meeting of Special Procedures](#), and its focus on non-cooperation, including 'more subtle forms', such as selective cooperation.

Mr President, we echo the call of the Coordination Committee, and urge you to work with them to ensure that the Council find ways to make non-cooperation more costly.

Thank you.

¹ Ukraine informed that an additional response had been submitted. Formal confirmation has however not been received at the time of delivery.