

## Human Rights Council 43<sup>rd</sup> session

### ITEM 3 – GENERAL DEBATE

Madam President,

ISHR and Amnesty International welcome the Special Procedures' latest [joint communications report](#), despite that it continues to provide a troubling picture of threats and attacks against civil society actors and human rights defenders worldwide. Some of the defenders cited have been the subject of several previous communications, yet they remain at serious risk.

Mr President, as the guardian of the Council's founding texts, we look to you to ensure full cooperation with the Council's mechanisms. 84 [States](#) listed in the report have failed to respond to at least one communication, whereof 21 are Council members.

Some of these states are 'repeat offenders'<sup>1</sup> or have failed to reply to two or more communications in this report; they include Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chile, Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, and Venezuela. In light of this deeply disturbing situation, we urge you Madame President, to request speedy updates from these states and other non-responders on the status of these communications.

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'. A lack of timely and substantive response to Special Procedures not only undermines the integrity of this forum, but is plainly incompatible with the collective goals of Council membership. It is essential that all Council Member States act to maintain a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders engaging with UN human rights mechanisms and actively strive to ensure that threats and attacks against them are prevented and adequately remedied.

We also regret that several communications involving human rights defenders working in the context of human rights and business remain unanswered by the companies involved. We recall the responsibility of business enterprises to prevent and mitigate abuses, and address adverse impacts with which they are involved.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a comparison of the responses to communications in the last three Communications reports.