



AI Index: IOR 40/5876/2017

15 March 2017

ORAL STATEMENT

ITEM 5: GENERAL DEBATE- ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES

UN Human Rights Council

Thirty-fourth session

27 February-24 March 2017

Mr. President,

Amnesty International welcomes the report of the annual meeting of the Special Procedures, and this useful opportunity to discuss the work of the Special Procedures system. We encourage the Council to consider holding an annual interactive dialogue with the Coordination Committee to allow more time to share national experiences and best practices, and to highlight areas where coordination can be strengthened.

Amnesty International also welcomes the addendum which collates detailed information regarding external funding received by mandate holders. This is an important step towards greater transparency. As this information highlights, the lack of sufficient regular budget allocations continues to pose a serious challenge to the work of the Special Procedures. We call on the Council to ensure that all mandates receive adequate regular budget funding to enable them to fulfil their mandates.

We also welcome the inclusion of several indicators of State cooperation with the Special Procedures. As GA resolution 60/251 makes clear, Council member states are required to “fully cooperate with the Council” and its mechanisms. We are pleased to note that the overall response rate to communications improved in 2016. We encourage states to ensure that those responses are substantive, and to reflect on concrete measures taken to address the concerns raised. We welcome the efforts by the OHCHR to make the information on communications and responses more accessible through the new online database.

Amnesty International is disturbed that acts of intimidation and reprisals against those who seek to communicate and cooperate with the Special Procedures continue to be reported. The Council must take such reports seriously, and respond swiftly and decisively.

Thank you.