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ORAL STATEMENT

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Item 5: General Debate

TIME TO RENEW COMMITMENTS TO THE UN'S HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND BODIES

UN Human Rights Council
52nd session

27 February – 4 April 2023

Mr President,

Seventy-five years ago, the United Nations set out a vision for a set of universal human rights principles shared across countries and cultures: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For Amnesty and other organizations committed to protecting and promoting human rights, the UDHR acts as a guiding inspiration for our mission and vision. Based on this foundation, in the last 75 years, the international community has agreed on a comprehensive international human rights law framework and continues to create a growing set of mechanisms and bodies to support states in protecting human rights. Commemoration efforts by member states should fully acknowledge this advancement and strongly condemn and counter any efforts to turn the clock back on this progress.

The 75th anniversary of the UDHR provides an opportunity to reflect on, and reinvigorate and recommit to these founding principles. The anniversary should not only be an occasion for a celebration of these principles but also be an opportunity for concrete action to address the many outstanding challenges that remain in fully realizing the values that underpin the UDHR.

Human rights are one of the three pillars of the UN, yet human rights mechanisms and bodies are chronically underfunded, and states frequently seek to hamper their work by defunding them, among them crucial mechanisms created by this Council. We call on states to ensure adequate and sustainable funding for the UN's human rights mechanisms and bodies as a matter of urgency.

In marking the anniversary of the UDHR it is critical for states to take clear steps towards addressing the challenge of non-cooperation with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, including threats of reprisals faced by those cooperating with such mechanisms.

Lastly, the Special Procedure continue to demonstrate their important role in prevention and early warning, and their agility to quickly adapt and continue working, even during a global crisis. We call on states to engage with Special Procedures constructively and seek their guidance on how to improve domestic implementation of international human rights law.

I thank you.