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ORAL PRESENTATION

## Human Rights 75 High-Level Event

11 December 2023

Madam Assistant Secretary-General

The 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) coincides with a world that appears to be unable to prevent or address grave violations that shock the conscience of humanity. This anniversary is a wake-up call for the world to ask itself whether it has what it takes to meaningfully address today's crises. The vision of the UDHR rose from the ashes of a world that was unable to sustain an international rules-based order. Today, at this difficult juncture, the importance of a robust international human rights system cannot be overstated.

The UDHR's ideals are connected to human experience in resisting injustice. Since 1948, the UDHR resonated with millions of people and accompanied them in their efforts to stand up and defend universal human rights – well beyond the political limitations surrounding its adoption. From movements such as decolonization and the feminist struggle to the creation of national, regional and international human rights instruments, the UDHR's vision has remained a key source of support. The grave atrocities and human suffering that we witness today, however, are reminders of the work that still remains to be done, in order to fulfill the UDHR's promise of universal human rights.

As we gather today, encircled by seemingly existential challenges stemming from conflict, abject inequality and a climate crisis out of control, let us be inspired by those who used the UDHR to advance the enjoyment of human rights for all, all the time, everywhere.

In that spirit, Amnesty International and its 10 million strong global movement pledges to:

- **resist** attacks against rights.
- **disrupt** the building of world orders that reproduce historical privileges and injustices, violate rights and silence human rights defenders.
- And lastly, **transform** global governance by re-imagining, innovating and leading.

We call on all to do the same and for states to demonstrate their commitment to human rights through meaningful action and consistent effort.

Thank you.