

Human Rights Council 41<sup>st</sup> session

COOPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL PROCEDURES- ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr President,

Amnesty International and ISHR are concerned about the recent crisis in funding jeopardizing the mandated activities of the UN's human rights mechanisms. We understand that the combination of delays in payments of UN member states' assessed contributions to the regular budget and the 25% cut to travel of UN representatives, including treaty body experts and Special Procedure mandate holders, and other budget cuts (2018-2019) are having adverse impact on the capacity of various human rights mechanisms to carry out their mandates effectively and is expected to continue for 2020 and 2021. We call on the Human Rights Council to ensure that its mechanisms are provided with the full resources required to perform the activities that this Council has mandated them to undertake.

Mr. President,

Amnesty International is concerned by the flagrant, persistent and selective non-cooperation of some States with the Special Procedures, as highlighted in the report of the annual meeting of Special Procedures presented to this Council in March. It notes that 14 UN Member States have not yet accepted any request for visits, while several Special Procedure country mandates, namely those covering Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Eritrea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Israel have not been able to carry out visits.

The most recent communications report<sup>1</sup> also provides a worrying picture where Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Israel, Malawi, Philippines and the United States of America all failed to respond to two or more communications. India failed to respond to 11 communications.

Most concerning of all are public announcements by States that they will not cooperate with certain mandate holders at all, attempts to replace mandate holders, and public and *ad hominem* attacks on mandate holders and members of Commissions of Inquiries for carrying out their work by Burundi, Eritrea, Maldives and Philippines.<sup>2</sup>

We agree with the recommendation of the annual meeting that “[t]he Council should also provide a space where good stories and examples of cooperation could be shared,” and also encourage you as HRC President to address cases of persistent or flagrant non-cooperation.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=A/HRC/41/56&Lang=E>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/8032/2018/en/>