

United Nations Human Rights Council: 23rd Session
Joint Oral statement Item 6 – General Debate
UPR Info

7 June 2013

Thank you.

The following statement is made on behalf of 75 NGOs.

Mr. President,

Civil society is deeply concerned by the current attacks on the format of the Working Group report. This document bears great importance as it represents the official record of the review process in Geneva on which the implementation will be based. We therefore deeply regret that two recommendations were taken out of a draft report at the UPR 16th session because they were considered as "not relevant" by the State under review. This was an action never seen before in the UPR and runs the risk of setting a dangerous precedent.

According to Resolution 5/1, the Report of the Working Group is a "summary of the proceedings" and should be drafted in an objective manner. Its format should be the same for all countries in order to guarantee equal treatment. Its content should reflect the discussion held in the room and should not be subjected to negotiations by countries, as stated in Presidential statement A/HRC/PRST/8/1 from 9 April 2008.

Both accepted and noted recommendations should be included in the report, irrespective of the country making them and the issue raised. All States have the right to suggest any recommendation. Similarly, any State under Review is entitled not to accept recommendations. However, under no circumstances should a State have the possibility to remove recommendations from the list for any reason, not even on the grounds that they are considered as being "not relevant".

Comments from States under Review on the reasons why they do not accept recommendations should be kept for the addendum. The chapeau or headers of the categories of recommendations in Section two of the Working Group report should be streamlined and clearly defined as: recommendations which enjoy the support, those which are noted and those pending until the HRC adoption.

We therefore call on you, Mr. President, to issue a Presidential statement to immediately end the attempts to tamper with the Working Group Report and clarify its format as soon as possible.

Thank you.