



General Assembly

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Human Rights Council

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Organizational session

6 December 2019

Agenda item 1

Statement by the President

PRST OS/13/1. Efficiency of the Human Rights Council – addressing financial and time constraints

At the organizational session of the Human Rights Council held on 6 December 2019, the President of the Council made the following statement:

“The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, on institution-building of the Council and on the code of conduct for special procedure mandate holders of the Council, respectively, and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, on the review of the work and functioning of the Council,

Welcoming its effectiveness, responsiveness and achievements in fulfilling and implementing its mandate as outlined in General Assembly resolution 60/251 and recognizing its unique role and added value,

Welcoming also the ongoing implementation of the measures outlined in President’s statement PRST OS/12/1 and their impact on addressing the financial and time constraints related to its workload,

Welcoming further the recent measures taken to enhance interactive dialogues, including the sharing of summaries of the reports of mandate holders, and recalling the importance of ensuring the timely issuance of reports as well as the encouragement to participants in interactive dialogues to envisage, including in their statements, questions and comments for mandate holders based on the reports,

Noting its increasing workload and challenges, particularly budgetary constraints, as reported by the United Nations Office at Geneva, in providing services on a continuing basis for all its meetings throughout the year, and reaffirming its willingness to consider measures aimed at making its work more efficient and effective,

Taking note with concern of the information provided by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva in her letter dated 25 November 2019 addressed to the President of the Human Rights Council,

Recognizing the need for introducing additional measures in line with its institution-building package to enhance its efficiency by addressing financial and time constraints, and welcoming the informal consultations on this matter led by its

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current and previous Bureaux, guided by the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, predictability, consensus and non-selectivity,

Recognizing the need to adopt the measures contained in the present statement with the mutual understanding of necessary restraint in order to plan the programme of work of the Human Rights Council in a manner that ensures compliance with General Assembly resolution 56/242 of 24 December 2001,

1. Decides to continue to discuss its financial and time constraints in relation to the universal periodic review;
2. Also decides to continue further the implementation of the measures outlined in President's statement PRST OS/12/1, including the three-year programme of work, the two-hour duration of panel discussions, the voluntary rationalization of initiatives and related outcomes and the exchange of information;
3. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva to continue to provide a comprehensive update, orally and in writing, at the organizational session held each year in December, on the actual and envisaged resources for conference services provided to the Human Rights Council;
4. Welcomes the efforts for the implementation of the measures on the use of modern technology set out in President's statement PRST OS/12/1, annex II, in particular the e-deleGATE system, and strongly encourages the continuous, progressive and full implementation of modern technology measures to improve the efficiency of the Human Rights Council;
5. Also welcomes the introduction of new measures to address the challenges faced by delegations from small and developing countries, in particular small island developing States and the least developed countries, including the help desk of the Human Rights Council, and the secretariat's efforts to schedule informal consultations without overlap, and encourages such measures to continue;
6. Decides to convene general debates during its March and September sessions on all of its agenda items and that no general debates will take place during its June session;
7. Also decides to conduct its annual interactive dialogue on the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights during its June session;
8. Further decides that all the interactive dialogues will follow existing modalities and be held individually and that the speaking time limits for all stakeholder interventions will be one and a half minutes;
9. Decides to allocate 20 minutes to all its mandate holders and mechanisms during the interactive dialogues, with two additional minutes allocated for every country visit report and/or other mandated report;
10. Also decides to implement the measures contained in the present statement on a trial basis for one year, and requests the President of the Human Rights Council to organize an informal stocktaking meeting to assess the impact of their implementation after its forty-fifth session and before the organizational session to be held in December 2020;
11. Further decides to remain actively seized of the matter."