

Human Rights Council Advisory Committee - 19th Session
August 7, 2017

**Joint Statement by the main Sponsors on National policies and human rights
(Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, Romania and Thailand)**

Thank you Mr. President.

I have the honor to speak on behalf of Algeria, Ecuador, Italy, Peru, Romania and Thailand, members of the Core-group on National policies and human rights.

Mr. President,

The initiative on national policies and human rights was presented for the first time in 2013 and it is an attempt to bridge the gap between the international obligations and commitments and the daily life of people through the acknowledgment of the national policies as the means to achieve the fulfillment of human rights.

From the beginning, it was stressed the importance of technical assistance provided to States, upon their request, to assist them in integrating human rights into national policies and programs so that national policies contribute to the enjoyment of human rights. Furthermore, it was highlighted the role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for providing technical assistance.

During the expert workshop held on 5 September 2016 in Geneva, two principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development were consistently mentioned: "leave no one behind" and "nothing about us, without us". Indeed, the Agenda 2030 turned out as a powerful means for inclusive and participatory implementation of human rights-based plans and policies: In this sense, the rights of vulnerable groups also have to be integrated into the implementation of national development plans.

The acknowledgment that the Sustainable Development Goals are based on human rights led us to focus on resolution 35/32, adopted by the Human Rights Council during its 35th session, on the link between human rights and the SDGs.

Resolution 35/32 emphasizes that the 2030 Agenda offers entry points for inclusive and participatory implementation of plans and national policies, while mainstreaming human rights towards a more balanced and integrated plan of action for achieving sustainable development that reflects the indivisibility and interdependence of all human rights.

In the resolution, we encourage the Office of the High Commissioner to enhance further the efforts aimed at supporting these measures in order that national policies, programmes and strategies, by including human rights obligations in their formulation and execution, have a positive impact on the effective implementation of the SDGs.

We believe that the SDGs can only be achieved if each Government, taking into

account the views of civil society, design appropriate national policies.

Therefore, and keeping the constructive point of view of the resolution, we figured out practical ways to help national officers to formulate sound national policies aimed at the fulfillment of the SDGs, and therefore, of human rights.

In this regard, Resolution 35/32 also requests the Office of the High Commissioner to develop a process of regional consultations to gather national experiences on good practices, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations in mainstreaming human rights as enshrined in international human rights law, into national policies, in order to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

As per the Advisory Committee's mandate concerns, it has to contribute during the consultation process, including by the participation of its members in the informal consultations, and to prepare a study that could help States to implement the 2030 Agenda through integrating human rights into national policies, based on the compilation prepared by the High Commissioner, and to present it within its regular reporting cycle to the Council at its forty-fifth session, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We strongly believe that the Advisory Committee is the best suited body of the Human Rights Council to accomplish these goals, because of its balanced regional representation and the expertise of its members.

Mr. President,

We expect the active engagement of the Advisory Committee in the fulfillment of the mandate of resolution 35/32, cooperating with the Office of the High Commissioner.

We are confident that your work will really help people on the ground for the effective enjoyment of their human rights.

Thank you.