**Human Rights Council: 39th Session**

**General Debate Item 5**

**19 September 2018**

**Joint statement by Ecuador on behalf of the core group on the contribution of Parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its UPR.**

Thank you Mr Chair, It is an honour to speak on behalf of Ecuador, Italy, Maldives, Morocco, Philippines, Romania, and Spain members of the Core-group on the contribution of Parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its UPR.

We strongly believe that parliaments are essential human right’s actors and play a crucial role in the promotion and protection of human rights, through the oversight of Governments' human rights action and policies, the implementation of recommendations, ratification of international treaties as well as the adoption of laws and the public budget.

Since 2014 our core-group: has presented Resolutions on this important topic under agenda item 5 as a contribution for strengthening the efforts at multilateral level towards the effective promotion and protection of human rights through the participation of key actors.

Although we have progressed on this particular issue, there are still some pending issues at national and international level in order to strengthen interaction between parliaments and the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review.

In this regard, we welcome the Report A/HRC/38/25 prepared and presented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in close cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union and in consultation with States, as requested by Resolution 35/29.

This report and its annex present findings for the due consideration of States, including an orientation on how parliaments can further be involved throughout the process of the UPR and other Human Rights mechanisms.

We also take this opportunity to commend the efforts made by the OHCHR and the IPU to promote a constructive discussion on the referred report through the organization of a side event and a workshop on June 28th, 2018.

Finally, we encourage States to look into the recommendations laid out by the OHCHR and the IPU in the aforementioned report, in order to keep building together on this important initiative in the near future.