



Third round of consultations for the long-term efficiency process
of the Human Rights Council

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Statement by
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Agenda item 2

Rationalisation of resolutions and initiatives

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Geneva Centre for Human Rights Advancement and Global Dialogue wishes to make the following recommendations regarding agenda item 2 addressing the theme of “*rationalisation of resolutions and initiatives*”.

The following recommendations identified under agenda item 2, would enable the Council to **save 42 hours** per annum.

- **Firstly**, the Geneva Centre agrees that Special Procedures Mandate Holders should only address their items once per year so as to avoid bringing the same themes repeatedly to the attention of the Council, except in cases of emergency. In addition, during clustered sessions of interactive dialogues with Special Procedures Mandate Holders, we recommend that these sessions be reduced from **three to two hours** as proposed for thematic panel debates. The same three rules as those suggested for panels would apply to these clustered sessions. This method would likewise contribute to enhance the long-term efficiency of the Council. If we assume that 54 reports are presented to the Council per annum, devoting two instead of three hours would allow the Council to save up to **27 hours** per year. This will also ensure a livelier and more engaging debate during interactive dialogues with Special Procedures Mandate Holders who would likewise be asked to put specific questions to the floor asking stakeholders to provide their guidance thereon as in the case of thematic panel meetings.
- **Finally**, the Geneva Centre recommends adding a maximum cap on the adoption of resolutions during the regular sessions of the Council to avoid a pile up of resolutions and the introduction of an excessive number of operational paragraphs. In 2008, the Council adopted 14 resolutions of which 12 were adopted by consensus that is 80%. In September 2017, it adopted 35 resolutions or 2.5 times as many as in 2008 with only just over half adopted by consensus. In September 2018, there was thankfully a reduction to 24 resolutions but little progress was made in terms of consensus building in the Council. One notes also with dismay at this session the duplication of several provisions in two parallel resolutions under the same agenda items which led to unnecessary waste of time. One also notes an inflation of operative paragraphs reaching a Guinness Record of 52 in one resolution. We urge that the President exercise his/her right to issue a Presidential statement to encourage delegations to exercise self-restraint in this regard.
- In addition, the biennialisation of resolutions would likewise offer an opportunity for the Council to benefit from efficiency gains. Except for emergencies, the Geneva Centre supports the idea of biennial resolutions if, during the gap year, the implementation of the previous year's resolutions could be reviewed. This would diminish the time under the given item because by circumventing the gap year the adoption procedures for resolutions with explanation of votes – estimated at 30 minutes per resolution – would be avoided. Reducing by half the adoption of resolutions through the biennialisation of resolutions, we could gain 5 hours per session which is **15 hours over the course of the year** if this would be applied in the context of 30 resolutions per annum.

I thank you for your attention.