

Human Rights Council 42th session

ITEM 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Speaker: *Isha Dyfan - Amnesty International - Check against delivery*

Mr President,

We deliver this statement on behalf of a number of NGOs.

We note the concerns in the Declaration of the Special Procedures' mandate holders at the Annual Meeting 2019 and share their concern about the global retrenchment against the values and obligations embedded in international human rights law and the challenges they spell out with regard to non-cooperation.

We also express appreciation¹ for the process set in place by the Special Procedures Coordination Committee to discuss ways in which the work can be strengthened including by seeking input from a wide range of stakeholders. This process presents the most appropriate way to ensure the effectiveness of the Special Procedures in protecting and promoting human rights, and to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation and address situations where there may be concerns regarding the actions of individual mandate holders.

We hope that this process will also provide an opportunity to discuss issues of chronic underfunding, non-cooperation of States with the Special Procedures, acts of reprisal and intimidation against human rights defenders and *ad hominem* attacks against mandate holders and how to make non-cooperation including selective cooperation by states more costly.

List of signatures (to be amended)

Amnesty International

Bar Association's Human Rights Institute

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies

Center for Reproductive Rights

Child Rights Connect

CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Colombian Commission of Jurists

Defence for Children International

Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)

Geneva for Human Rights

ILGA World

International Commission of Jurists

International Movement against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)

International Service of Human Rights

Peace Brigades International

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT)

¹ Civil society statement on efforts to strengthen and increase effectiveness of the United Nations Special Procedures , <https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/IO4009672019ENGLISH.pdf>