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 was 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.