



**37th Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming
February 26, 2018**

Joint Oral Statement

Submitted by

CCIG – Centre Catholique International de Genève

Co-signed by

Associazione Comunità Papa Giovanni XXIII

Caritas Internationalis

Compagnie des Filles de la Charité de St Vincent de Paul

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd

Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)

Edmund Rice International

Fédération internationale de l'Action des chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture

Fondazione Marista per la Solidarietà Internazionale ONLUS

International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education, Development

Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

Mouvement International d'Apostolat des Milieux Sociaux Indépendants

Office International de l'enseignement catholique

Réseau Crescendo

Vie Montante Internationale

VIVAT International

World Evangelical Alliance

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Theme: The promotion and protection of human rights in the light of
the universal periodic review mechanism: challenges and opportunities
26 February 2018

Thank you Mister President,

CCIG, on behalf of a coalition of 17 NGOs, welcomes the annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming aiming to explore how supporting the implementation of UPR recommendations strengthens the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level.¹ It highlights that a more effective implementation of recommendations leads to a better protection of human rights.

While we recognize the progress made by States in ensuring the effective functioning of this mechanism, we express our concern regarding the **implementation of recommendations** made in the framework of the UPR and we stress the need for a more systematic evaluation of the status of implementation of such recommendations by the States concerned.

On this line, we welcome the recent initiative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to address letters to each Member State reviewed during the 27th UPR Session, calling on the State under Review to “develop a national human rights action plan in order to achieve concrete results” regarding UPR recommendations and to strengthen “the national mechanism for comprehensive follow up and reporting in relation to international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations”.

The full implementation of UPR recommendations constitutes a major challenge and the primary goal of the 3rd and following UPR cycles.

Based on its direct experience in working with local human rights defenders in over an hundred countries, this NGO coalition is convinced that the establishment of **National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow Up (NMRFs)** would greatly advance not only the implementation of UPR recommendations, but also the work of other human rights bodies, such as the Special Procedures and Treaty bodies.

As HRC resolution 30/25 states, “the effectiveness of the universal periodic review, as a cooperative mechanism, depends on the progress achieved by the State concerned [...] in the implementation of accepted recommendations”.

Therefore, we welcome the valuable contributions and inputs provided in the current panel discussion and **we call upon all Member States to set up or strengthen national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRFs) in order to enhance efforts of relevant ministries and consultation with Civil Society toward a more effective implementation of UPR recommendations, eventually leading to better human rights protection worldwide.**

Thank you, Mister President.

¹ Concept note, Annual high-level panel discussion on human rights mainstreaming “The promotion and protection of human rights in the light of the universal periodic review mechanism: challenges and opportunities”.

