



**41st Session of the UN Human Rights Council
Item 6 of the Agenda: General Debate
July 5, 2019**

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 Saint 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

Teresian Association

VIVAT International

World Evangelical Alliance

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Speaker: Lilian Espedilla

Thank you, Mister President.

The CCIG on behalf of a coalition of **16 NGOs**, welcomes the positive developments of the UPR as a mechanism striving to find more effectiveness on the follow up and monitoring of recommendations. We also appreciate that it **provides opportunities to address emerging human rights issues**, offering a space to bring attention to them. We strongly uphold **its complementarity with the work of the Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures**.

Hence, we are deeply concerned with the current situation of **UN budget cuts and its profound implication to human rights on the ground**. While welcoming the High Commissioner's assurance of implementation of Treaty Bodies' activities for 2019, **the future regular conduct of their mandate is still of major concern**.

Regarding the Treaty Body Strengthening, we reiterate that **reform should not be led by financial concerns, but must adhere to the primary criterion of ensuring effective human rights protection**, placing right holders at the center and upholding the essential integrity of the System.¹ States must continue to **provide financial support** to enable the treaty bodies to fulfill their duties (in assisting States to comply with their human rights obligations.²)

While commending the progress made by States through the UPR and reaffirming our commitment to continue engaging with it, we stress that **each UN body for human rights offers a unique, equally valuable and needed contribution. They are, in fact mutually reinforcing each other as are the rights they intend to protect**.

Thank you, Mister President.

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<https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomlatools-files/docman-files/Optimizing%20UN%20Treaty%20Bodies.pdf>

² Open NGO letter regarding the critical funding gap affecting UN human rights mechanisms and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, available at <http://www.ccig-iccg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Open-NGO-letter-on-budget-challenges-for-UN-expert-bodies-final-for-publication.pdf>