



**41<sup>st</sup> 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**

41<sup>st</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
Item 6: UPR General Debate  
5 July 2019  
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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>)

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>

<sup>2</sup> 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>