

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (13th session)

Item 6: Universal Periodic Review

General debate

Statement by Norway

19 March 2010

Delivered by Ambassador Bente Angell-Hansen

Thank you Mr President,

Norway would like to take this opportunity to make a few remarks on the functioning of the UPR mechanism based on our participation in the review of others as well as our recent experience as a country under review.

Norway is a strong supporter of the UPR mechanism as a vital institution of the new Human Rights Council. The UPR represents a unique opportunity to undertake a general, critical review of the human rights situation in all countries. It should be approached in a serious manner based on the fundamental principles of cooperation, transparency and inclusiveness. The opportunity to sharing best practices should be fully utilized.

It is important that statements and recommendations are accurately reflected in the report of the Working Group. We agree that this must be done in an efficient manner, but in order for the UPR to be effective, we should not compromise on quality. As part of the upcoming review, we believe it is necessary to carefully consider both the role of the troika as well as the time allotted between the interactive dialogue and the adoption of the report in the Working Group.

A key element of the UPR-process is the dialogue between peers in the Working Group. The quality of the outcome of this dialogue is dependent on the quality of the input. We should all aim for enhancing our participation through presenting clear and precise recommendations to the country under review.

The country under review is free to decide which recommendations to accept or reject. Norway strongly believes that the credibility of the UPR-process relies on the commitment of the states under review to provide clear and precise responses to recommendations put forward. This is in keeping with and respecting the interactive nature of the UPR. The response should at the latest be presented prior to the adoption of the outcome document in the Plenary of the Council.

The upcoming review is a unique opportunity to further improve the UPR mechanism. Norway will actively engage to this end.

Finally, as to the speakers list my delegation's views concur largely with what was just expressed by the distinguished Ambassador of India.