



European Union

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

32nd session

(13 June – 1 July 2016)

Item 10

Statement by

H.E. Mr Roderick Van Schreven

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

on behalf of the European Union

Geneva, 30 June 2016

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

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EU Statement

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Mr President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

Technical assistance and capacity building are essential to the integration of human rights and fundamental freedoms in national policies and frameworks. The EU would like to commend the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights for its constant commitment and solid cooperation and dialogue with States, regional organizations and other stakeholders in this regard. The growing number of requests for assistance by the OHCHR shows that its vital role is widely appreciated and recognized. We are aware that OHCHR is consequently facing challenges to find and allocate the necessary resources and hope that this can properly be addressed. We encourage countries from across regions to further support the Office financially

The EU encourages all States to fully cooperate with OHCHR and to be open to technical assistance and capacity building but also, when needed, to allow OHCHR full access to monitor and report on the human rights situation.

* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

Mr President,

The EU deplores the deeply concerning humanitarian and human rights situation of the **Yemenis**. It calls on all parties to fully respect and oblige by international human rights and international humanitarian law and to fully invest in the ongoing UN-led process in Kuwait. We welcome the offer extended by the Office of the High Commissioner to assist the national commission of inquiry in its work, to be conducted in accordance with international standards. We are looking forward to the High Commissioner's comprehensive report on human rights violations in Yemen and on the progress made by the national commission of inquiry. The previous reports on Yemen testified to OHCHR's solid working methods. We expect the Government to continue to work with the representatives of the High Commissioner and to create closer cooperation.

Mr President,

On **Cambodia**, the EU shares the concerns recently expressed by the UN Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights as well as by a number of UN Special Rapporteurs, and supports their call on the Cambodian authorities to resume a peaceful and constructive dialogue with the opposition and to ensure a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders and civil society

We are mindful of the situations in the **Central African Republic** and **Côte d'Ivoire** and have commented on them in detail in the dedicated interactive dialogues.

Thank you Mr President