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**Human Rights Council****Seventeenth cycle**

Organizational session

8 December 2023

Agenda item 1

**Organizational and procedural matters****Statement by the President****PRST OS/17/1. Efficiency of the Human Rights Council:  
addressing financial and time constraints**

At the organizational session of the Human Rights Council held on 8 December 2023, the President of the Council made the following statement:

“The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 60/251 of 15 March 2006 and 65/281 of 17 June 2011, and Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 5/2 of 18 June 2007, on institution-building of the Council and on the code of conduct for special procedure mandate holders of the Council, respectively, and 16/21 of 25 March 2011, on the review of the work and functioning of the Council,

Welcoming the ongoing implementation of the measures outlined in President’s statements PRST OS/12/1 of 3 December 2018, PRST OS/13/1 of 6 December 2019 and PRST OS/16/1 of 9 December 2022, and their impact on addressing the financial and time constraints related to its workload,

Recalling that the measures contained in PRST OS/13/1 were extended for one year by PRST OS/14/1 of 7 December 2020 and for one additional year by PRST OS/15/1 of 6 December 2021,

Welcoming the measures taken to enhance interactive dialogues, including the sharing of summaries of the reports of mandate holders, and recalling the importance of ensuring the timely issuance of reports and of encouraging participants in interactive dialogues to envisage, including in their statements, questions and comments for mandate holders on the basis of the reports,

Recognizing the need to introduce additional measures in line with its institution-building package to enhance its efficiency by addressing financial and time constraints, and welcoming the informal consultations on the matter led by its current and previous Bureaux, facilitators and focal points, guided by the principles of transparency, inclusiveness, predictability, consensus and non-selectivity,

1. Decides to continue to implement the measures outlined in President’s statement PRST OS/12/1, including the three-year programme of work, the two-hour duration of panel discussions, the voluntary rationalization of initiatives and related outcomes and the exchange of information;



2. Invites the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva to continue to provide a comprehensive update, orally and in writing, and to engage in an interactive exchange at the organizational session held each year in December, on the actual and envisaged resources for conference services provided to the Human Rights Council;

3. Encourages States, on a voluntary basis, to consult with other States and relevant core groups when drafting resolutions and to seek the technical support of the Secretariat, with a view to avoiding duplication and overlap with existing mandates or mechanisms and limiting the number of meetings held during regular sessions, with due consideration given to the three-year programme of work;

4. Encourages the Secretariat to provide briefings or training sessions for interested delegations on the rules of procedure, institutions and tools of the Human Rights Council, including guidelines for the good practice of mandating interactive dialogues and panel discussions in resolutions with the participation of States, and on best practices in the drafting of resolutions, using the voluntary calendar in advance of every session, notably, with a view to rationalizing the work of the Council;

5. Recognizes the need for strengthening efficiency through enhancing the engagement and participation of all States, in particular small island developing States and the least developed countries, to ensure inclusive and meaningful participation in the work of the Human Rights Council, including through digital tools and resources,

6. Welcomes the efforts for the implementation of the measures on the use of modern technology set out in annex II to President's statement PRST OS/12/1, in particular the e-deleGATE system, and the introduction of other innovative measures, such as the digital drawing by lots for the universal periodic review process, and strongly encourages the continuous, progressive and full implementation of modern technology measures to improve the efficiency of the Human Rights Council;

7. Requests the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), within existing resources, to prepare a feasibility study, with a view to developing an integrated and accessible digital information and knowledge management system related to the Human Rights Council's tools and activities, building on existing tools and experiences, and contributing to the Council's efficiency and effectiveness, and to submit a report on the study to the Council before its fifty-sixth session;

8. Decides that the speaking time limit for all stakeholder interventions in interactive dialogues will continue to be one and a half minutes and that all mandate holders and mechanisms will be allocated 20 minutes, with two additional minutes for each country visit report and/or other mandated report;

9. Also decides to explore the possibility of the limited reclustered of interactive dialogues on overlapping thematic or country-specific issues on a voluntary basis;

10. Requests mandate holders and OHCHR to ensure the timely availability of reports to the Human Rights Council in all official languages of the United Nations;

11. Decides to set the speaking time limit for all interventions by members and observers of the Council during panel discussions to one and a half minutes on a pilot basis for one year;

12. Also decides to extend, for one additional year, the measure contained in PRST OS/13/1 related to the annual interactive dialogue on the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, whereby the dialogue will be conducted at its June session;

13. Further decides to extend, for one additional year, the measures contained in PRST OS/13/1 related to general debates, whereby general debates will be convened at its March and September sessions on all agenda items and no general debates will take place at its June session;

14. Acknowledges the importance of promoting gender equality and increasing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council, and recognizes the need to work towards the strengthening of existing procedures and mechanisms to handle cases of harassment, including sexual harassment, in the context of the meetings and events of the Council;

15. Decides to continue to discuss ways and means to enhance its efficiency and effectiveness and to remain actively seized of the matter.”

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