Statement
by
H.E. Mr. Araya Desta
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

On agenda item: 64

Report of the Human Rights Council

Third Committee
68th session of the United Nations General Assembly

New York, 13 November 2013
Mr. Chairman,

Let me thank the President of the Human Rights Council for his presence in the Third Committee of the United Nations General Assembly; and Eritrea welcomes the dialogue on activities of the Council over the course of the year. My delegation has taken note of the report of the Human Rights Council.

Mr. Chairman,

General Assembly resolution 60/251 mandates the Council to promote universal respect and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind and in a fair and equal manner to make the necessary recommendations thereon. It is the believe of my delegation that values of human rights are best promoted and protected through genuine dialogue and cooperation. In this regard, as strongly stressed by the African Group, Universal Periodic Review (UPR) remains a valid mechanism in enhancing constructive dialogue and cooperation between Member States.

This has been a novel approach as every country's human rights record is put under scrutiny. However, this constructive approach is undermined by some countries that want to revert to the old way of addressing human rights issues which discredited the Commission on Human Rights. This is a serious challenge that has to be addressed by the Human Rights Council in order to uphold its credibility and legitimacy. My delegation wishes to offer the following observations in this regard:

- There is a need to move forward not backward and the Human Rights Council would be most effective in its mandate of promoting human rights everywhere, only if it fully adheres to the basic tenets for which it is formed;
- The human rights council could be at the service of humanity by eliminating practices such as double standards, selectivity and politicization of human rights issues;
- Human rights standards could be elevated through constructive engagement and institution building mechanism not by creating country specific mandates selectively on the basis of political considerations.
• Eritrea believes that since all human rights are indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, there should be no hierarchy between them. It is about time to give equal and undivided attention to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the right to development. In this connection, the integration of the economic, social and cultural rights and the rights to development ought to be a priority in the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

• As it is widely recognized in the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing, the full enjoyment of all human rights can only be guaranteed in conditions of peace, security and stability.

Mr. Chairman,

While I have the floor, let me add my delegation's voice to the statement read by Gabon on behalf of the African Group with respect to the need for more time to reflect and discuss the recently adopted resolution 24/24 by the HRC.

I wish to conclude by reaffirming Eritrea's continued commitment to the attainment of the common aspirations of the full enjoyment of all human rights for all peoples and nations on the basis of respect of the UN Charter and internationally agreed legal instruments.

Thank you.