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68th session of the General Assembly
Third Committee
Item 69 (b) and 69 (c)

30 October 2013
New York
Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to present several reports under item 69 (b) (b) on human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Following the order of today’s agenda, let me start with the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion and protection of human rights, including ways and means to promote the human rights of migrants (A/68/292).

The report analyses the components of a human rights-based approach to migration within the post-2015 development agenda - and how a human rights perspective can enhance international migration policies. It provides examples of recent practice, highlighting challenges as well as best practice.

The report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the International Year of Human Rights Learning (A/68/207) outlines human rights education, training and learning activities facilitated by OHCHR between July 2011 and June 2013, following up to the International Year (10 December 2008 – 10 December 2009). The report also highlights initiatives such as the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the UN Declaration in Human Rights Education and Training.

The report of the Secretary-General on the right to development (A/68/185) represents an annual consolidated report to both the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. It contains a brief overview of the activities of the human rights office and the human rights mechanisms relating to the promotion and realization of the right to development. The report provides detailed information on advocacy, outreach and efforts to mainstream the right to development in the global partnership for development, including the Post-2015 agenda.

The report of the Secretary-General on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/68/211) reflects responses to a request for information from all Member States on the implications and negative effects of unilateral coercive measures on their populations. All ten respondent Member States rejected the use of unilateral coercive measures. According to several States, unilateral coercive measures posed major obstacles to the development of their economies, and they call on the UN to reject unilateral coercive measures. Some support was expressed for the creation of a mechanism for monitoring such measures, possibly through a special procedures mandate.

The report of the Secretary-General on national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (A/68/208) contains information on the activities undertaken by the human rights office to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions; measures taken by Governments and national human rights institutions in this regard; technical assistance to
national human rights institutions; and cooperation between these and international human rights mechanisms.

The report of the Secretary-General on **globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights** (A/68/177) reflects responses received to a request for views. The respondents agree that globalization is a complex process with important human rights implications - both opportunities and challenges. Several inputs called for more measures to ensure protection against the potential negative impacts of globalization and ensure the equitable distribution of its benefits. For that, domestic programs designed to provide basic levels of social protection are seen as key, as is international cooperation, structural reform of the financial system and improved global governance.

The report of the Secretary-General on **human rights in the administration of justice** (A/68/261) provides an analysis of the applicable international legal and institutional framework for the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty. It also identifies major challenges, such as judicial oversight of deprivation of liberty, overuse of detention, in particular pre-trial detention and detention of migrants, overcrowding, deaths and serious injury in detention, and the protection of specific groups deprived of their liberty. It concludes that the main challenges lie in the implementation of relevant norms and standards at the domestic level. Pursuant to resolution 67/166, this report will also be presented to the Human Rights Council at its 24th session.

The report of the Secretary-General on **combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief** (A/68/546) compiles and summarizes responses of States and provides an update of activities undertaken by the human rights office, human rights treaty bodies and the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, respectively. The report contains primarily information received from States on combating religious intolerance. [The extensive submissions received from NGOs are not reflected in the report, (primarily due to space constraints) but are available for consultation in the files of the Secretariat.]

The report of the Secretary-General on the **universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights and fundamental freedoms** (A/68/224) is submitted pursuant to resolution 66/151. The report reflects responses from six Governments, as well as from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), concerning the universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing nature of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Moving now to the report of the Secretary-General on the **promotion of equitable geographical distribution in the membership of the human rights treaty bodies** (A/68/323). It provides information on nomination and election procedures for treaty body members, and finds that the African and Asian groups are under-represented in the membership of most committees, while the WEOG is over-represented in most committees. The report further shows that the representation of the GRULAC and the Eastern European group appears to be proportionate to the level of ratifications. The analysis also shows that the membership of treaty bodies is still
male-dominant. Based on this, the Secretary-General makes a number of recommendations to the State parties to the human rights treaties.

The report of the Secretary-General on **strengthening UN action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity** (A/68/209) contains a summary of the submissions received from nine Governments, as well as the WMO and UNODC. The report identifies common concerns and makes recommendations on how to strengthen UN action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation based on the principles of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity.

The report of the Secretary-General on the **Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa** (A/68/390) presents the work of the Centre from September 2011 to August 2013. The Centre continued to provide capacity building services to States of the sub-region, in line with the thematic priorities of OHCHR: strengthening rule of law and combating impunity; promoting economic, social and cultural rights; promoting of democracy and good governance; combating discrimination; strengthening National Human Rights Institutions and cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms. The report also highlights challenges and opportunities for further engagement on human rights in the sub-region.

In the report of the Secretary-General on **human rights and cultural diversity** (A/68/277), sixteen submissions received are reflected. In these, several States highlight their efforts to promote cultural diversity, particularly constitutional provisions, as well as legislation to protect the diversity of cultural expressions and the rights of ethnic and other minorities. There is emphasis on cooperation with other countries and with international organisations as a means of facilitating inter-cultural dialogue. States also provide information on cultural exchange programmes and on programmes and events to promote the arts, literature, music, film and dance, among other forms of cultural expression.

The report of the Secretary-General on the **UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region** (A/68/287) provides an overview of the training activities and regional consultations carried out by the Centre during its three years of operation, and an analysis of challenges, opportunities and the necessary resources. In particular, the Centre has been increasingly solicited by Member States to provide assistance following the developments in the Middle East and North Africa. This considerable demand has highlighted the necessity to allocate adequate resources to the Centre for it to be able to discharge its mandate fully and effectively.

The anniversary of the **Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities** (report A/68/304) offered an important opportunity to examine how the Declaration has served the purpose of advancing the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. The report provides an outline on various activities undertaken to promote implementation of the Declaration and to raise awareness of its provisions, such as an analysis of effective practices and remaining challenges.
which should be addressed to strengthen implementation at the national, regional and international level.

The report of the Secretary-General on **protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism** (A/68/298) refers to recent developments within the UN system in relation to human rights and counter-terrorism, including in support of the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, notably through the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, in particular its Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism; the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate; the Human Rights Council, the UN human rights mechanisms; and the human rights office.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me now turn to agenda item 69 (c) entitled ‘human rights situations and reports of special Rapporteurs and representatives’.

Under this agenda item, I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the **situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea** (A/68/392). Since the previous report, there have been no substantial changes in the obstacles faced by the UN in systematically promoting and protecting human rights in the DPRK.

The report provides an update of the UN’s engagement with the DPRK, and refers in particular to the establishment by the Human Rights Council of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the DPRK. In the report, the Secretary-General reiterates his call on the DPRK to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK, as well as with the Commission of Inquiry.

The report also touches upon the developments concerning asylum issues and family reunions, and urges neighbouring countries to fully respect the principle of non-refoulement. It also calls for continuing humanitarian aid, especially food and medicine, to the people of the DPRK.

The report of the Secretary-General on the **situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran** (A/68/377) provides an update to the latest report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Iran, until August 2013. It expresses great concern about the significant increase in executions reported this year, including in public. It refers to the new Islamic Penal Code, signed by the President in June 2013, which not only provide capital punishment for a wide range of offences but also retains the penalty of stoning. The Penal Code however reduces the range of offences for which the death penalty may be applied against juveniles, although other areas of concern remain. The report also highlights curtailed freedom of expression and assembly, with intensified crackdown on media professionals, human rights defenders, lawyers and women’s rights activists, and the prolonged house arrest of opposition leaders since February 2011.
The Secretary-General also notes the positive achievements on many economic and social indicators, and welcomes Iran’s appearance before the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in May 2013. He encourages the Government to address regional disparities in the enjoyment of these rights, as well as discrimination against women and members of certain minorities.

Finally, the report regrets Iran’s lack of cooperation with Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, in particular the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, and calls on the Government to fully cooperate with the Rapporteur and facilitate his access to the country.

Mr. Chairperson, this concludes my introduction of reports submitted under agenda item 69 (b) and (c).

Thank you.