

**Joint Statement on the Promotion of Universality of the Standing
Invitations to all Special Procedures**

42nd session of the Human Rights Council

**Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms
General debate**

Delivered by Latvia

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Thank you Mr President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of 64 countries.

Mr President,

We, States subscribing to this statement and representing different regional and legal traditions, are united by the decision to extend standing invitations to all special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and honour them.

We note with satisfaction that the number of countries that have extended standing invitations has continued to grow. We welcome the recent decisions of Botswana, Comoros and Malaysia to extend a standing invitation to all special procedures bringing the total number of the countries to 121 and 1 non-Member Observer State.

A standing invitation to the special procedures provides an unambiguous signal of a country's readiness to cooperate fully with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms thus demonstrating a tangible contribution to the strengthening of the UN system of protection and promotion of human rights in which the special procedures are an integral and important part.

We welcome the additional information on cooperation of States with special procedures provided in the latest annual report of the special procedures, presented to the 40th session of the Human Rights Council. While we welcome that some States have opened their doors to mandate holders for the first time, we also regret that, as shown in this report, even if the countries have extended standing invitations, some States only cooperate with a select few, or they respond to communications but do not accept visits.

The issuing of a standing invitation should result in genuine cooperation with the special procedures. Accepting a visit is only the beginning of a process of cooperation encompassing constructive dialogue during the visit, whereby states respect the independence, expertise and the working methods of the mandate holders, and take appropriate steps for continued cooperation after the country visit and when addressing their recommendations.

Whilst we are aware that the commitment to receive special procedures is voluntary, we continue to encourage all countries, especially current members and candidate countries of the Human Rights Council, that have not done so, to extend a standing invitation to the Council's mechanisms, and once this commitment is made, to honour it.

Finally, we invite all states to continue to cooperate with and assist the special procedures mandate holders in the performance of their tasks and to promote an open, constructive and transparent dialogue in the Council.

I thank you!

Countries subscribing to the statement:

Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, the Bahamas, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Maldives, Malta, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, State of Palestine, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Uruguay.