

42TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

JOINT STATEMENT ON ADDRESSING XENOPHOBIA AND HATE SPEECH

350 palabras (2.5 minutos)

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of a group of _____ countries.

We are deeply concerned by the proliferation of hate speech that stigmatizes persons belonging to groups based on their race, ethnicity, language, religion, national origin, nationality, migration status, among other grounds. These expressions of hatred feed xenophobic sentiments that can push potential perpetrators to carry out violent acts against minorities or other groups, including migrants. Recent attacks in Christchurch, Pittsburgh, Colombo and El Paso have followed this dangerous trend.

We condemn all acts of violence or any incitement to such acts that are in violation of international law and have no place in our societies. Hate crimes threaten democratic values and social stability, and can endanger peace, sustainable development and the effective enjoyment of human rights.

Hate speech has expanded in every region, regardless of culture or government system, sometimes encouraged to advance political agendas or prompted by irresponsible statements by persons with influence on public opinion. While fully respectful of freedom of expression, we reject any rhetoric that feeds into a climate of hatred in which discrimination, racism, xenophobia and intolerance are normalized.

We also express concern over the proliferation of radical websites that propagate racist ideologies. They provide a platform for hate groups, including white supremacists, to organize, recruit and incite violence, which may lead to terrorist attacks, therefore demanding greater scrutiny.

States have an ethical and legal responsibility to denounce and condemn hate speech. It is critical to develop human-rights policies to prevent, address and counter hate speech, which can include a combination of adequate legal protection against discrimination and hate crimes, mechanisms to ensure accountability, support for the victims, awareness campaigns, education, and a vigorous defense of human rights. It is also critical to prevent indiscriminate access to weapons and the misuse of the Internet and social media by violent extremists, which may cause destruction and harm.

Finally, a global coordinated effort is needed and, in this regard, we welcome the Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech launched by the Secretary General.

Thank you.