

Joint Statement by the Human Rights / Conflict Prevention Caucus New York

**Interactive Dialogue with Ms. Michelle Bachelet,
High Commissioner for Human Rights**

**3rd Committee of the General Assembly,
Item 70 - Promotion and protection of human rights,
15 October 2019**

Mr. Chairman,

I am delivering these remarks on behalf of the members of the Human rights/Conflict Prevention Caucus, co-chaired by Germany and Switzerland, and its members Albania, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Gabon, Guatemala, Japan, Mauritius, the Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Sweden, the United Kingdom and Uruguay.

We thank you for convening this interactive dialogue with High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet and we would like to use this opportunity to reiterate our support for her work. We commend the OHCHR on its continued efforts to mainstream human rights into the work of the entire United Nations system and to strengthen the use of data and analysis in support of early warning, prevention, monitoring and investigations.

Human rights play an important role in conflict prevention and sustaining peace. We believe that significant progress can be achieved within the current institutional setting and with the instruments currently available to us. Therefore, we support the promotion of human rights as a crucial tool of conflict prevention, sustainable development and sustaining peace. Human rights are, in case of violations and abuses, important early-warning systems. They are also powerful instruments to build resilient and inclusive societies.

In this regard, we encourage strengthening the exchange between the bodies and entities working on the three pillars of the UN and the promotion of strong links between Geneva and New York, in particular between the OHCHR, the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission. Such institutional exchange enables a common approach that is needed for the effective prevention of and response to human rights violations and abuses.

Ms. High Commissioner,

How can we use the momentum generated by the UN reforms in order to advance the preventive role of human rights?

Through what means can the role of human rights in conflict prevention and resolution be strengthened?

I thank you.