



PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY

STATEMENT

Human Rights Council 27 Session, item 6: Consideration of UPR outcomes, Norway

18 September 2014

Norwegian statement by Ambassador Steffen Kongstad

Check against delivery

President,

I am pleased to address the Council in connection with the adoption of the outcome of Norway's second Universal Periodic Review.

Norway strongly supports the UPR process, which represents a unique opportunity for all countries to undertake a review of their human rights situation.

Throughout the process, we have had a transparent cooperation with civil society. A draft report was circulated among civil society actors in Norway, and they were invited to give their views. Their critical assessment and constructive advice on areas where there was disagreement with the government or where it was deemed that we need to improve, has been of key importance to the process. The UPR has contributed to a strengthened dialogue between civil society and Norwegian authorities on a range of human rights related issues.

We received 203 recommendations on a number of issues, including the establishment of a new National Institution, ratification of international instruments, racism, discrimination, violence against women, to mention some.

Norway welcomes all the recommendations made during the review. Each of them has been subject to careful consideration by relevant authorities. We have accepted 150 recommendations. In our response to the

recommendations, we have made extensive comments. We have also explained why we are not in a position to accept certain recommendations.

I would like to thank the missions that contributed to what we see as a useful dialogue during the review of Norway. Allow me also to thank the representatives from civil society for their many and constructive contributions. Civil society has a crucial role in making the UPR a credible and useful process.

Thank you.

Concluding remarks:

President,

This meeting concludes the formal proceedings of our second report. The UPR is, however, an on-going process where the implementation stage is crucial. We look forward to following up on the many and useful recommendations we have received.

Allow me to conclude by thanking you all for your participation in the review of Norway. In closing, I will again emphasize that promotion and protection of human rights is a priority for the Norwegian government. Although much has been achieved, we still face some challenges and we continually strive to make improvements. The UPR process provides a unique opportunity to address these challenges and raise awareness of the importance of strengthening national implementation.

Thank you