

37th Session HRC—UPR SWITZERLAND March 2018

Oral Statement

NGO-Coordination post Beijing Switzerland makes this statement on behalf of NGO Platform for Human Rights Switzerland

37th Session of the Human Rights Council, March 15, 2018

Mister President,

According to the NGO Platform for Human Rights Switzerland, the UPR review depicts the gaps in the human rights protection in the Swiss system relatively well. While Switzerland has rejected numerous recommendations, which should be self-evident, it has accepted others whose implementation will constitute significant improvements.

We are pleased to see the longstanding demand for a coordinated implementation of the UPR recommendations¹ accepted. To achieve coherent human rights policies the establishment of a well-financed office needs to be prioritized.

Only the non-binding recommendations concerning the introduction of mechanisms to ensure compatibility of popular initiatives and international human rights conventions² have been accepted, while the implementation of an independent mechanism with legal and institutional guarantees has been rejected.

We are pleased that all recommendations concerning the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution³ have been accepted. They underline the urgency of the creation of such an Institution in line with the Paris Principles.

The big number of recommendations concerning the protection against discrimination indicates the remaining gaps. All recommendations requiring legal changes have been rejected⁴, in particular the longstanding demand by the Platform for comprehensive legislation on discrimination.

We welcome the acceptance of the recommendations guaranteeing independent examination of police violence⁵ that correspond to our longstanding demands. We will lobby for a concrete and complete implementation.

Despite the great need for improvement concerning free legal aid⁶, this recommendation has been rejected. We are demanding effective legal protection for prisoners, which requires a less restrictive application of free legal aid.

In view of the big discrepancies between cantons, the acceptance of the recommendation on uniform standards in all reception centers for asylum seekers at federal and cantonal level⁷ is welcomed. However, the implementation of said standard will be the determining factor, and the current legal project on federal level does not go far enough.

Thank you.

¹ A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 146.7–146.10

² A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 146.15–146.19, 147.10, 147.25, 147.26

³ A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 147.5–147.9, 147.11–147.22, 147.24, 146.11–146.14

⁴ A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 146.2, 146.6, 146.22–24, 146.26–146.48, 146.65, 146.70–146.72, 146.76–146.102, 146.105–146.108, 146.110–146.116, 147.28–147.37, 147.47, 147.49–147.57, 147.59, 147.63, 148.16–148.20, 148.24, 148.26–148.45, 148.58, 148.60, 148.62

⁵ A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 146.56–146.59

⁶ A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 148.54

⁷ A/HRC/WG. 6/28/7, rec. 147.62