



Organisation Non Gouvernementale ayant Statut spécial à l'ECOSOC aux Nations Unies, membre observateur à la Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples (CADHP) de l'Union Africaine.

37th Session of the Human Rights Council

ITEM 6 UPR Outcomes Zambia

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Speaker: Saifullah Chaudhry

Mr. President,

RADDHO welcomes the report of the Working Group on the UPR on Zambia. We congratulate the Government of Zambia on the progress made in human rights since its second cycle review, namely the completion of the Constitutional review process; the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act No. 6 of 2012, the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015; the strengthening of public accountability and anti-corruption mechanisms; the incorporation of human rights education into the school curriculum; as well as the ratification and domestication of international agreements through the enactment of the Ratification of International Agreements Act No. 34 of 2016.

We note, however, that several challenges remain in the fulfillment of human rights in Zambia. In this regard, RADDHO regrets the retention of the death penalty by the Government. This deplorable practice is a serious violation of human rights, which primarily violates the right to life and further constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. We highlight that being a de facto abolitionist State is not enough to protect the right to life and human dignity. We thus urge the Government to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR in order to abolish the death penalty both in law and in practice.

In conclusion, RADDHO encourages the Government of Zambia to continue its democratization process as well as the domestication of international agreements.

We further encourage Zambia to continue on the path of cooperation and constructive dialogue with a view to further strengthen the protection and promotion of human rights in the country, especially the advancement of women, as well as engagement in the ongoing abolitionist efforts of the African Commission's Working Group on Death Penalty.

Thank you.