

**Amnesty International,
Bahá'í International Community,
International Service for Human Rights**

Joint NGO statement on resourcing of Human Rights Council decisions by the General Assembly

20 January 2011

This is a statement on behalf of Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, and International Service for Human Rights

Mr Co-facilitators,

The 2011 review of the Council's status by the General Assembly provides, among other things, a much-needed opportunity to clarify and improve the governance and budgeting lines between the Council and the General Assembly. We would like to thank the co-facilitators and the Assembly for giving NGOs the opportunity to provide input into the discussions on this and other aspects of the review.

The mandate of the Council is to improve the protection of human rights for all. Fulfillment of that mandate is measured by The Council's ability to take on human rights situations of concern and respond to victims' needs through meaningful action. When the Council takes action in response to these needs and concerns, the General Assembly is responsible for ensuring that the necessary resources are available to carry out the Council's decisions in a timely and adequate manner. It is therefore essential that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, which is tasked to carry out many of these activities, including those that must be implemented immediately such as fact-finding missions, receive the necessary resources to cover the costs associated with these activities. In the past, due to a lack of resources, OHCHR was only able to carry out these and other essential tasks by diverting funds away from other activities. We thus urgently encourage member States to either establish a process that allows for timely disbursement of funds to the Office and, in any case, ensure that the Office is reimbursed for the full costs associated with carrying out Council decisions.

Secondly, we believe it is important to keep in mind that the expansion of the UN human rights machinery over the last years, such as with the UPR and the new treaty bodies, has led to an increased support role for OHCHR. Given that Member States have not provided commensurate budget increases to accompany the additional workload, an undue burden has been imposed on the Office. We therefore respectfully encourage Member States to also use the opportunity of the review to address these shortfalls in the OHCHR budget.

Thank you