

**To the attention of the Human Rights Council President**

H.E. Mr Jürg Lauber

With copy to:

**H.E. Ms Usana Berananda, Permanent Representative of Thailand**

**H.E. Mr Marcos Gomez Martinez, Permanent Representative of Spain**

*The Co-Facilitator of the track on rationalisation of initiatives and mandated activities created through the Council's decisions, as well as on improving the efficiency of the Council's annual programme of work*

**H.E. Mrs Francisca E. Mendez Escobar, Permanent Representative of Mexico**

**H.E. Mr Christophe Payot, Permanent Representative of Belgium**

*The Co-Facilitator of the use of modern technology in the work of the Council, and to follow up on the implementation of the relevant tools and activities requested in PRST/OS/18/1*

Geneva, 19 November 2025

**Re.: Follow-up to PRST OS/18/1. Efficiency of the Human Rights Council: addressing financial and time constraints**

Your Excellency,

We welcome the opportunity to contribute once again to the Human Rights Council's reflections on efficiency and effectiveness amid political, structural and financial challenges. We also extend our appreciation to the Co-Facilitators for their diligent efforts in addressing these pressing issues.

As we have consistently emphasised, the efficiency exercise cannot be disassociated from the broader liquidity and budgetary crises and UN80 Initiative reforms. The Council cannot fulfil its mandate without adequate resources, and for that, **States must pay their dues in full and on time**. We need States to invest in the system politically and financially, and send a clear message that the **UN human rights pillar should be safeguarded from any further UN budget and spending cuts**.

We welcome the Co-Facilitators' assessment that previous "time-saving" measures, such as reductions in speaking times, have reached their practical limits. **The focus must now shift to medium- and long-term strategic and innovative measures**, applied beyond the one-year cycle of the efficiency process, to strengthen the Council's lasting impact.

We are concerned, however, that the primary metric proposed for measuring efficiency appears to equate to the Council doing less. Consolidation of mandates, shorter and less frequent resolutions and reports cannot, in themselves, be considered indicators of effectiveness or efficiency. In times of crisis, genocide, and global unrest, the Council must do more—not less—to uphold the protection and dignity of people on the ground. **While resource constraints necessitate prioritisation, simply reducing or withholding initiatives cannot serve as the sole measure of success.**

Avoiding duplication of mandates is important, but complementarity should also be encouraged where mandates serve distinct functions related to a particular theme or situation. **Decisions concerning such mergers should be guided by an objective assessment with clear criteria developed in consultation with stakeholders, including civil society.** They should only be undertaken after assessing implications for operational independence and effectiveness in consultation with mandate holders, civil society, and victims and survivors of violations.

It is also important to acknowledge that many human rights mandates are addressing deep structural or root causes of violations. Measuring their impact **requires a longer-term vision, not just short-term indicators.** Evaluation should look beyond outputs—such as the number of reports produced—and also focus on real-world outcomes and changes for individuals and communities. This should be assessed through regular, meaningful consultation processes with affected individuals and communities.

Similarly, we do not view combining substantive and mandate renewal resolutions as good practice in itself, as political sensitivities around mandates could risk undermining important normative progress in areas such as gender equality, climate justice, and others. **The Council's normative role in building and strengthening standards must remain uncompromised.**

**Enhancing coordination and cooperation between New York and Geneva is crucial.** Regular exchanges between the Council and the Third Committee should be a standard part of working methods, including efforts to enhance synergies between proposals, the application of objective criteria to avoid duplication, and regular consultation with civil society organisations.

**Hybrid modalities** play an important role in alleviating heavy workloads by allowing multiple stakeholders to participate remotely, reducing travel time, costs and emissions. In line with the Co-Facilitators' suggestions, UNOG should review the costs of hybrid informals to enable effective and cost-efficient engagement. **We urge the HRC President and delegations to work with counterparts at the General Assembly to support the adoption of a mandate for hybrid participation.** This will ensure that the Council remains accessible while reducing environmental impact. Further consideration should also be given to how other UN agencies have successfully implemented hybrid modalities as a working practice.

One of the main challenges regarding access to the Council by human rights defenders and civil society organisations is the lack of centralised information that is readily available and easily accessible, as well as information in the official UN languages. In line with the [Feasibility study on developing a digital system for the Human Rights Council](#), efforts should prioritise providing easy access to documents and information, available in the main UN languages, and facilitating active participation in Council deliberations. Any proposals aiming to combine existing platforms should be **cost-effective, consider past efficiency gains, and ensure that all stakeholders, including civil society organisations, do not**

**lose access to the tools and information currently available, avoiding duplication of registration systems and preserving the Council's institutional memory.**

We reiterate the need for any adopted proposal under this process to be **followed by a concrete impact assessment based on specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) objectives**, enabling progress to be tracked and evaluated at the end of the year.

Finally, we emphasise that efficiency and effectiveness must be rooted in the Council's core human rights principles: **equality, non-discrimination, accountability, participation, accessibility, and access to information**. An efficient and effective Human Rights Council is one that actively responds to the needs and concerns of human rights defenders, victims, and survivors. Any measure that restricts the space for these voices inherently diminishes the Council's credibility and impact.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Sincerely,

1. Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
2. American Civil Liberties Union
3. Amnesty International
4. Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT)
5. Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies (CIHRS)
6. Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)
7. Centre for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR-Centre)
8. Europe Brazil Office
9. FIAN International
10. Franciscans International
11. Geneva for Human Rights - Global Training & Policy Studies
12. Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD)
13. Gulf Centre for Human Rights
14. Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights
15. Hivos
16. Human Rights Watch
17. Humanists International
18. IFEX
19. ILGA World
20. International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI)
21. International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)
22. Instituto Brasileiro de Direitos Humanos
23. Privacy International
24. World Association for School as an Instrument for Peace
25. World Organization Against Torture