

70th General Assembly
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**Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions
adopted by the Human Rights Council**

New York, 16 December 2015

Joint statement of Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey

*read by H.E. Ambassador Y. HALIT ÇEVİK, Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Turkey*

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address you on behalf of Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

Our delegations welcome the presentation of the Secretary-General's report on the Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Human Rights Council at its twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth and thirtieth sessions and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

Mr. Chairman,

For the past 70 years, the United Nations has worked on the frontlines every day around the world in the areas of Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Development. Human rights are one of the three pillars upon which the work of the United Nations is founded and Member States have been placing ever-greater emphasis on human rights in recent years. Despite this trend, the human rights pillar receives only a fraction of the regular budget resources allocated to the other two pillars and is insufficient to cover all mandated activities which to a large extent depend on voluntary contributions.

In a joint letter to the Secretary-General dated 15 July 2014 Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey on behalf of 55 States expressed concerns about the chronic lack of resources of the United Nations' Human Rights' pillar. As stated in this letter, we firmly believe that the UN regular budget should at the very least cover all costs of activities mandated by the Human Rights Council and other relevant intergovernmental bodies. It should also allow the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to respond positively to Member States' requests for technical assistance and to ensure an appropriate field presence.

Regular budget resources requested by the Secretary-General for the Organisations human rights activities for the biennium 2016-2017 amount to USD 197,963,200 before recosting, representing a decrease of 5.0 per cent, compared with the revised appropriation for 2014-2015. We understand that these resources are by far insufficient to cover the needs of the Organisation, in particular the Office of the High Commissioner in the area of human rights. We respectfully request that the SG provides detailed information about the full costs of mandated activities.

Mr. Chairman,

In today's world where one crisis haunts the other, it is necessary that we give the United Nations the adequate resource to efficiently and effectively deliver its mandates. The promotion and protection of human rights is a key purpose and guiding principle of the Organization. It also contributes to strengthening international peace and security and to promoting development which

are the two other pillars of our Organization. The aim should be to establish a sustainable resourcing over the coming years in a manner that balances the different interests by states, without infringing on the independence of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and his office, which operates under the administrative direction and authority of the UN Secretary General and General Assembly.

We will continue our engagement to ensure sustainable and balanced funding for the human rights pillar of the United Nations and call upon the Member States and the Secretariat to work together to achieve this important goal.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.