

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

26th Session

23 June 2014

Statement by Hungary

General Debate

Item 5

Human Rights Bodies and Mechanisms

Mr. President,

My delegation fully supports the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union on this subject.

Hungary welcomes the first ever panel discussion by this Council this March on the critical issue of promotion and protection of civil society space, which underscored once more the importance of the unhindered cooperation, free from any acts of reprisal and intimidation, of all civil society actors in the work of the Council and its mechanisms. We share the UN experts' view that it is unacceptable that civil society pay the ultimate price for peaceful and legitimate interaction with the UN and its Human Rights Mechanisms.

We are therefore alarmed to learn about recent cases of arrest, detention or intimidation of individuals in relation to their work and engagement with UN mechanisms, here in Geneva, but also in New York. Several of the Special Rapporteurs who reported on their mandates during this Council session, have expressed serious concerns about cases of reprisals against persons whom they met within the course of their mandate, or their families.

Mr. President, reprisals undermine the effective functioning not only of this Council and its special procedures, but of the entire UN system. The fight against them should therefore enjoy the highest political support of member states. We welcome the firm attitude of the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and the Presidents of the Council in condemning reprisals against and intimidations of those cooperating with the UN system and the leadership of several delegations in delivering cross regional statements that contain a strong message.

We regret the deferral of consideration by the GA of Resolution 24/24 aimed at ensuring a coherent system wide response to the phenomenon of reprisals throughout the UN system and would like to echo the appeal of the High Commissioner for all states to take a constructive and forward looking approach in New York, aimed at finding a solution for the timely implementation of this initiative that enjoyed the wide support of the members of this Council.

My delegation particularly welcomes the fact that the African Commission of Human

and People's Rights has recently appointed a focal point for reprisals cases. It is our sincere hope that based upon this initiative, which should be followed by other regional organizations as a good example, the African Group will play a leading role in New York in negotiating the establishment of a UN system wide focal point.