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"Human rights questions"

Statement

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Human rights are the major focus area at the United Nations. Their importance is constantly growing as Member States continue to encourage their full implementation equally for all and to improve existing human rights mechanisms. However, tackling human rights issues is a hard and frequently controversial process as there are globally different traditions and cultures.

Meanwhile, here in the Third Committee we are working together to produce considerable and timely decisions on human rights. Through consultation and dialogue many delegations seek to make a positive contribution to that process, to make it better and relevant. The delegation of Belarus is pleased to be a part of this joint work and **to contribute to the prevalence of cooperative spirit in the Third Committee.**

Mr. Chairman,

This year Member States have made a significant step towards improving the system of the human rights consideration. The General Assembly has created the Human Rights Council to streamline existing mechanisms and ensure an unbiased and non-selective approach towards human rights. By this step we seek **to encourage a more objective and universal principle in tackling human rights entirely in the UN system.**

We support the view of many delegations that **Member States should more actively discuss the situation of human rights in all countries with no exception in Geneva.** To that particular end the Human Rights Council has been established.

However, collaborative interaction that many of us sincerely favour is largely poisoned by the practice of country-specific resolutions initiated from year to year. Belarus condemns that practice as **a totally negative instrument that damages international dialogue on human rights** and that is used for a purely political crackdown and therefore cannot bring any positive result.

We are still witnessing examples of accusations of some countries of alleged human rights violations. These allegations appear even against the background of numerous human rights abuses in those countries that allow themselves to blame others.

With regard to Belarus, we need to emphasize that our legal framework, including regulations of the NGOs and mass media activities that have most recently been criticised in the Third Committee, is largely based on the legal provisions used in the countries with solid democracies. All allegations with this regard have no ground and seek to give a false picture of our human rights record.

Mr. Chairman,

Belarus seeks to encourage equitable and mutually respectful dialogue on human rights. We demonstrate in practice our commitment **to develop cooperation on protecting human rights where it is mostly needed for the sake of the people worldwide**. Initiating resolution "Improving coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons", recently adopted in the Third Committee, serves as a vivid example of our constructive and active position.

Major challenges in the Third Committee are looming as Member States are nearing actions on the bulk of proposals on the human rights issues. It is highly important that we stick to a positive and constructive approach **preventing politicization and double standards**. We all again have the chance to follow an objective and fair approach towards considering human rights issues.