

COUNCIL MONITOR

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COUNCIL UPDATE – ITEM 3, INDEPENDENT EXPERT ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL, 12TH SESSION 16 AND 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

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Overview

The Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Mr Rudi Muhammed Rizki, presented his annual report to the Council on 16 September. The report examines international solidarity as a principle of international law. Very few States commented on the report and generally welcomed it. States that spoke also encouraged the Independent Expert to continue to develop a normative framework toward international standards and guidelines on the right to international solidarity.

Interactive dialogue

Presentation by the Independent Expert

The Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, Mr Rudi Muhammed Rizki, presented his annual report to the Council.¹ The report examines international solidarity as a principle of international law; international solidarity in relation to eradication of poverty; and international solidarity and cooperation in natural disasters and combating diseases. The report also sets out some elements of the scope, content and nature of obligations related to promotion and protection of the right to international solidarity.

Debate

Only five States commented on the report of the Independent Expert.² It was notable that only developing countries participated in the debate with Venezuela called for a ‘frank and open dialogue free of mean capitalist interests’ on this issue.

¹ A/HRC/12/27. The oral presentation is available on the OHCHR extranet.

² Cuba, Pakistan, Venezuela, Indonesia, Morocco.

Cuba, which is the main sponsor of the mandate, endorsed the Independent Expert's analysis that international solidarity is a precondition for human dignity and the foundation of all human rights. It underlined that international cooperation and aid are indispensable in this time of global crises and argued that international solidarity is a duty of all governments. It asked the Independent Expert to provide an update on any progress in the development of the declaration on the rights of persons to international solidarity and of standards, norms and guidelines.

Pakistan (on behalf of the OIC) agreed with the Independent Expert's findings that hard and soft law support notion of a right to international solidarity. It encouraged him to construct the normative framework for a right to international solidarity.

Morocco stated that the report's conclusions were close to the position of developing countries that have long argued for obligations toward international solidarity. It underlined that developing guidelines and standards in this area is essential.

Replies by the Independent Expert

Mr Rizki underlined that international solidarity for addressing cross border problems like trafficking and dumping of toxic waste. He explained that the report was the starting point for developing an international normative framework and that the next steps will be to draft principles and standards.

In response to a question from Indonesia, he explained that international solidarity could best be promoted to meet the MDGs through engagement by the private sector and greater corporate social responsibility.

Further information

For further information on the Human Rights Council, please consult the following resources:

- Follow ISHR on Twitter: [@ishr_geneva](https://twitter.com/ishr_geneva).
- Web site of the International Service for Human Rights, providing up-to-date information before, during and after sessions of the Council: <http://www.ishr.ch/council>. During the session, ISHR will provide information about the Council's proceedings on a regular but not daily basis. You can subscribe to receive alerts of our publications by sending an email to information@ishr.ch.
- Oral statements made at the Council, as well as other informal documents and draft resolutions are available on the 'OHCHR extranet' at <http://portal.ohchr.org/portal/page/portal/HRCExtranet>. Username: 'hrc extranet' Password: '1session'.
- Web site of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the 12th session of the Human Rights Council: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/12session>. For direct access to reports considered, check <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/12session/reports.htm>.

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The Council Monitor forms part of the Human Rights Monitor Series produced by ISHR. It provides you with information about all the key developments at the Human Rights Council, including Council Updates during the session of the Council, an Overview of the session, briefings and updates on the major issues of concern in the transition from the Commission on Human Rights to the Council and other key reports. It is currently an online publication that can be found at www.ishr.ch.

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